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Thursday, March 27, 2008

\$1.00 includes GST

circulation 10,000

Voice.ca

Haliburton County's Local Weekly Newspaper Vol 1 Issue 9

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The County's Going For It!

Liz Danielsen
 Staff Reporter

"It sounds
daunting,
but it's
really quite
simple."

It's a go! On Wednesday County Council decided to proceed with a formal bid submission to host the 2010 Ontario Summer Games. And according to Dennis Casey there are only three bidders, making the chances of an exciting summer for everyone in the County pretty good.

Casey, who along with Bob Nichol, co-chairs the committee investigating the feasibility of hosting the games, reported to County Council that their work has focused on three of the nine components that form the formal bid submission. They include event locations, accommodations and financing. Details of other components which include things like transportation, volunteers, marketing, communications and special events will be dealt with in more detail at a later date, but for now their report examines them from a feasibility and cost perspective only. County budget discussions scheduled to take place early in April will also formalize financial responsibilities associated with the games.

Casey said that his committee has looked at accommodations in proximity to event locations in the hopes of keeping everyone "clustered". Their submission must assure sportalliance of Ontario that the County can do a credible job of hosting the games and this is a crucial component. Casey admitted that the County doesn't have all of the facilities that are required, but most of the games hosted in the past have not been able to supply absolutely everything detailed in the list of requirements.

Casey says "our biggest challenge was finding facilities for the water events." Olympic size pools are few and far between. The committee has chosen the University of Ottawa as they have two 50 metre long pools each with 8 lanes. Ottawa also has four summer games under their belt, which is a huge bonus and there will be access to the University dorms for accommodations.

Historically the swimming events have been associated with the winter games and according to Casey this is a first for them to be added to the summer games. Their success will likely determine whether or not they'll be back with the winter games again in the future.

cont'd... pg. 2... >>

Will It Ever Stop?

Snowfall hits Haliburton County hard



Believe it or not, Spring began last Thursday – but try telling that to Mother Nature.

On Tuesday, March 25 – Wednesday, March 26, the roads crews had to get busy after the weather once again turned for the worse. The continuous snowfall that began on Tuesday afternoon didn't let up until the latter part of the day.

"Our guys were up early today, they started at 4 a.m. (Wednesday)," said Doug Ray, Director of Public Works for Haliburton County. His crew looks after all of the major roads in the County.

"We have about 35-40% of our roads complete," said Ray on Wednesday morning. "Generally the crews can get around the system in four hours. The County is on a two shift system. There are guys who have shifts in the morning and others who start in the afternoon." Ray said that it normally takes about four hours for the crews to get the job done.

Only one truck in his crew got stuck.

"It had difficulty trying to plow up a hill. It had to lift up its plow to get up."

"Our status is normal," said Brian Whetstone, Manager of Operations for Algonquin Highlands. "The crews have been out since 5 a.m. today (Wednesday)," said Whetstone. "Because the storm started so late yesterday, the decision was made to hold off on clearing them (roads) until today." He said that all the roads would be completed by noon (Wednesday). The job normally takes them six hours to do.

Mark McMaster of the Haliburton Highlands OPP detachment said that only minor incidents were reported since the storm hit.

"Yesterday (Tuesday), there were six accidents, three of which were on Highway 118. Two involved minor personal injury, one car hit a deer and one caused property damage." McMaster said that nothing new was reported after 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

"I guess people decided to stay in after then," he said.

According to the weather forecast it seems that we will be getting some relief from all this wintry weather. The next few days show little expected amounts of precipitation. However, temperatures are going to be a little cooler than expected for this time of year. ■

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 of second section of County Voice.

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 March 29 - 8 p.m.**



For listings, see second section of this newspaper.

MINDEN 286-1234

HALIBURTON 457-2414

Don't Worry! Earth Hour is Voluntary!

ATTENTION: THIS IS NOT A POWER OUTAGE!

This Saturday March 29th hundreds, perhaps thousands of Haliburtonians will celebrate Earthhour by turning out their lights at 8 PM sharp for one hour, joining millions world wide. But when you say the lights are going out, sometimes the message gets a little murky, not to say dim. Apparently some in our community have got the impression there's a power blackout, which is something else altogether, this Saturday at 8 PM. NOT TRUE!

60
EARTH HOUR

THERE IS NO BLACKOUT THIS SATURDAY! (But you're still allowed to turn out your lights, turn off the fridge, the TV, etc.. and enjoy the night sky.) ■

Summer Games Bid A Go

... from pg. 1

>> "The Opening Ceremonies will be a highlight with all of the athletes here." Casey says "it sounds daunting, but it's actually quite simple".

When addressing the issue of finance, CAO Jim Wilson cautioned County Council that any deficit encountered in the budget will become their responsibility, and they must keep in mind the Committee must follow tight financial controls to ensure no cost overruns. The County's bid for the games must also include a financial commitment of \$200,000.

Casey reported that the submission must also include a risk management plan, which includes having the appropriate professional accountants on board. He confirmed that the County Treasurer will be appointed to the Board, something which is identified in their bid. Casey reported that sportalliance of Ontario will provide a percentage of the funding a year prior to the games, then two months prior and the balance after the games. They also suggest that all office staff including a General Manager be set up 20 months in advance of the games, which would be September or October of this year.

Smith reported that there are no formal commitments yet regarding sponsorship, but he has a number of indications of interest. Casey added that any sponsorship funds received in advance can be invested until required. He added that Trillium Foundation is also a possible source of funding.

When speaking of the three bids that are to be submitted, Casey says it's a pretty well kept secret. He says that despite his best efforts he has been unable to dig out just who the other bidders will be. Initially there were five bidders on the list, but two of them dropped out of the process almost immediately.

The Committee's summary stated "It is the opinion of both Dennis Casey and Bob Nichol that the County of Haliburton can more than adequately host the 2010 Ontario Summer Games, provide a unique venue and leave a lasting legacy within the County of Haliburton." County Council readily accepted this recommendation and gave the authority to submit the formal application for the Games. ■

"Darkened Enlightenment"

Will we all be in the dark this weekend? Hopefully, Haliburton County will offer a substantial contribution on Saturday night to an initiative that is aimed at raising awareness about climate change, something that affects all of us. Residents and businesses in the County are being encouraged by their Municipal Councils to take part in the first International Earth Hour challenge and switch off their lights for one hour, at 8:00 p.m., on Saturday, March 29th.

Over the past month all of the Municipal Councils in the County received requests to support Earth Hour, a program initiated by the World Wildlife fund in efforts to increase awareness about climate change issues. Each Council over the past several weeks has passed a resolution supporting the initiative, and proposing to take part themselves by shutting off the lights in municipal buildings and/or encouraging residents to take part.

The idea was pioneered in Australia last year with over 2 million Sydney residents and businesses as well as the world famous Sydney Opera House turning off their lights for an hour. The result was a 10% reduction in electrical use and a savings of over 25,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere. This year, Earth Hour has become a global initiative and all of the major cities across Canada as well as many smaller municipalities have taken up the challenge.

This is a symbolic gesture, but one that can provide inspiration to everyone in the County, the Country and indeed the world. Our Municipal Councils have been elected to lead the way and through their support of this initiative, they are asking residents to take part, spread the word and lead the challenge into the dark. ■

Have Your Say... VOX POP

We asked people if they knew what Earth Hour was and when it will be happening. Also, will you be participating?

Brent Cartwright, Minden – "I had heard about it on TV and then went to look it up on the internet. We've turned our power off before like this. We don't need to use energy that we don't need. This is a very good idea. We only have one Earth and when it's gone it's gone."



Sarah Jowett, West Guilford – "I know everyone will be shutting their lights off for an hour. I saw it advertised in the IGA. I'll definitely do it. I don't use much hydro. I think if everyone participates it'll make a difference on the environment. I hope it does."



John Wood, Wilberforce – "I saw a poster saying that you should turn off your lights for an hour. It's going to make a difference."



-Heather Deveaux, Carnarvon – "Yeah, we're doing it. Most of our lights are fluorescent so they don't use much electricity. It's good to make a point."



Fred Shaw – "I know of it. I likely won't be doing it. I don't use much hydro anyways. I just have a fan, stove, TV and light. I don't think it makes a difference."



Art Theberge, Haliburton – "My memory doesn't work right now! I'm familiar with it and intend to practice it. It's about raising awareness so it's important to be a part of it. We shouldn't ignore what we're all causing."



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New to the County!

THURSDAY



Partly to mostly cloudy and chilly

▲ -1° ▼ -6°

FRIDAY



Morning clouds, then decr. clouds and cold

▲ -4° ▼ -11°

SATURDAY



Mostly sunny and chilly

▲ -2° ▼ -9°

SUNDAY



Milder with a rain showers developing

▲ 6° ▼ -1°

MONDAY



Mostly cloudy and seasonable

▲ 6° ▼ -3°

TUESDAY



Some morning clouds, then clearing skies

▲ 4° ▼ -5°

WEDNESDAY



Cloudy and chilly with a few flurries

▲ 1° ▼ -5°

AROUND THE REGION: Chilly weather will be experienced across the region the next few days. Not much sunshine will be seen on Thursday, as highs will be near 1 below zero. A little more sunshine will be seen on Friday, but it will be colder as highs only reach 4 below zero. It will be sunny and chilly on Saturday while the next storm system will bring rain to the area on Sunday.



REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
	Hi/Lo/Otk	Hi/Lo/Otk	Hi/Lo/Otk	Hi/Lo/Otk	Hi/Lo/Otk	Hi/Lo/Otk	Hi/Lo/Otk
Bancroft	-1/-7/cl	-4/-10/pc	-2/-9/su	6/-1/cl	6/-3/sh	4/-5/su	1/-5/cl
Barrie	2/-6/cl	-4/-10/pc	-1/-8/su	8/-3/sh	8/-3/sh	5/-3/su	1/-3/cl
Dorset	-2/-7/cl	-4/-10/pc	-2/-10/su	5/-2/sh	6/-4/sh	3/-6/su	1/-6/cl
Haliburton	-1/-6/cl	-4/-10/pc	-2/-9/su	6/-1/sh	6/-3/sh	4/-5/su	1/-5/cl
Huntsville	-2/-7/cl	-4/-10/pc	-2/-10/su	4/-2/sh	6/-4/sh	3/-6/su	1/-6/cl
Kingston	1/-4/cl	-2/-8/pc	-1/-7/su	7/-2/sh	8/-3/sh	7/-3/su	1/-3/cl
Lindsay	-1/-6/cl	-3/-9/pc	-1/-8/su	8/-1/sh	7/-3/sh	5/-4/su	1/-4/cl
Minden	-1/-6/cl	-4/-10/pc	-2/-9/su	6/-1/sh	6/-3/sh	4/-5/su	1/-5/cl
Oshawa	1/-4/cl	-1/-8/pc	1/-7/su	9/-2/sh	7/-2/su	7/-2/su	2/-2/cl
Ottawa	0/-6/cl	0/-7/cl	1/-8/su	6/-1/pc	8/-4/sh	7/-3/su	-1/-8/cl
Toronto	3/-4/cl	0/-7/pc	1/-6/su	9/-2/sh	9/-2/sh	8/-1/su	2/-1/cl

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
	Hi/Lo/Otk	Hi/Lo/Otk	Hi/Lo/Otk	Hi/Lo/Otk	Hi/Lo/Otk	Hi/Lo/Otk	Hi/Lo/Otk
Calgary	6/-4/pc	5/-6/pc	2/-9/cl	1/-10/pc	5/-11/sf	5/-7/pc	0/-7/pc
Edmonton	3/-6/sf	1/-7/sn	-2/-9/sf	2/-4/cl	4/-12/sf	2/-9/sf	1/-8/pc
Fredericton	-2/-7/sf	-2/-8/cl	-1/-7/sn	4/-3/su	6/-6/su	3/-4/pc	1/-11/pc
Halifax	2/-4/pc	2/-5/cl	2/-4/cl	1/-3/pc	3/-3/su	2/-3/cl	-1/-4/pc
Montreal	-1/-8/cl	-1/-8/cl	1/-5/pc	4/-2/su	6/-2/sh	5/0/su	-3/-11/cl
Regina	4/-5/mx	3/-4/cl	1/-6/sn	1/-4/sf	5/-10/sn	3/-9/sf	6/-4/cl
St. John's	2/-4/sf	1/-6/sn	0/-6/sn	0/-2/cl	0/-2/su	-2/-2/cl	-1/-4/pc
Saskatoon	3/-6/pc	3/-5/sf	-2/-9/sn	0/-6/sf	5/-12/sf	1/-9/sn	3/-7/sn
Vancouver	7/3/sh	6/3/ra	7/3/sh	8/3/sh	12/1/sn	10/3/sn	7/2/ra
Whitehorse	-2/-8/cl	-2/-7/sn	-2/-7/sf	-5/-12/sf	-2/-17/sf	-4/-13/cl	-8/-14/sn
Winnipeg	-1/-7/pc	1/-6/cl	1/-7/sn	9/-2/sf	1/-10/sf	5/-7/sn	2/-3/sf

AREA ALMANAC

Last seven days	High	Low	Prec.
Tuesday 3/25	0°C	-18°C	12.7 mm
Monday 3/24	-2°C	-19°C	0 mm
Sunday 3/23	-3°C	-16°C	3.1 mm
Saturday 3/22	0°C	-16°C	1.3 mm
Friday 3/21	-1°C	-12°C	0 mm
Thursday 3/20	-2°C	-19°C	1.3 mm
Wednesday 3/19	3°C	0°C	12.7 mm

Readings from Haliburton/Stanhope Airport
www.stanhopeairport.com



Forecasts, graphs and data provided by Weather Central, Inc., Madison, Wis. © 2008

SUN & MOON

	Sunrise/set	Moonrise/set
Thu.	7:03 a.m./7:36 p.m.	1:14 a.m./9:25 a.m.
Fri.	7:01 a.m./7:37 p.m.	2:12 a.m./10:12 a.m.
Sat.	6:59 a.m./7:39 p.m.	3:03 a.m./11:07 a.m.
Sun.	6:58 a.m./7:40 p.m.	3:45 a.m./12:11 p.m.
Mon.	6:56 a.m./7:41 p.m.	4:20 a.m./1:20 p.m.
Tues.	6:54 a.m./7:42 p.m.	4:48 a.m./2:32 p.m.
Wed.	6:52 a.m./7:44 p.m.	5:12 a.m./3:46 p.m.

Last	New	First	Full
March 29	April 5	April 12	April 20

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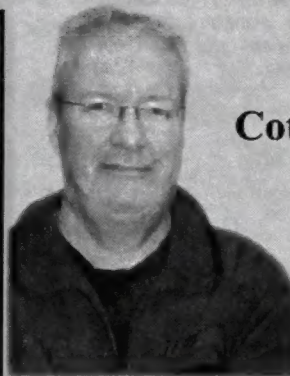


County Voice

EDITORIAL VIEWPOINT

By Stephen Patrick

Cottagers and the Community Is Them Now Us?



This weekend Cottage Life magazine hosts its 15th annual Spring Cottage Life Show at the International Centre in Toronto. The Show features over 475 cottage-related exhibits, including no less than 100 first-time exhibitors.

Organizers expect attendance to be over 35,000. It's one of the biggest consumer shows in the country. This year also marks the 21st anniversary of the magazine itself, founded by Haliburton Cottagers Al Zicovitz and his wife Wendela Roberts back in 1988. The success of the magazine, and the trade shows that have followed it, are just one reflection of the profound changes that have occurred in that old dynamic of town and country, seasonal and permanent.

Haliburton's year-round residents often called them 'summer visitors', or sometimes 'city-folks', or usually just plain 'cottagers'. Like most interesting relationships, this one's always had something of an edge. This 'edge' was not unique to Haliburton certainly or indeed to Canada. For centuries of summers the Russians have fled to their dachaus on the Black Sea, the French to anywhere outside of Paris, and the English to frumpy seaside resorts with names like Frinton-on-Sea (been there - don't go.) And for centuries locals world wide have accepted much needed cash, sometimes while actually smiling, and heaved a huge sigh of relief when September rolled around.

Haliburton County had no significant wealth before the tourism industry explosion began in the 1950s. In the last century the forests were harvested unrelentingly: the Donald Chemical factory alone ground up tens of thousands of acres of mixed bush during its heyday from 1910 to 1940. There was some mining in the east, and some viable farms across the lower half of the County, and before 1940 the larger lakes, Kashagawigamog, Drag, 12 Mile, and Boshkung boasted family resorts. An intrepid few made the trek over mainly dirt roads to build rough cottages: a dozen or so children's camps were started. The beginnings of a tourism industry gradually emerged, to become a flood by 1960. Still, up until the 1980s, in September that activity came to a sudden and complete halt, to resume only in June the following year.

One side result of this division might have been that Haliburton's permanent residents became fiercely loyal and supportive of each other as some kind of affirmation of their ability to live here year-round. In any event the community the cottagers left behind in September was cohesive, communitarian, and deeply supportive of its public institutions, its schools, churches, and community centres. The power and beauty of our forests and lakes were shared by all. Its political life was also rich, and influential well beyond its numbers. For most cottagers, Haliburton's appeal began at the shoreline of the lakes, looking out over vistas of water and rolling hills: for many residents, it began in the opposite direction, into the mysteries and beauty of the bush.

But those old lines and divisions are blurring at nano speed. Most cottages are now permanent residences, used all year round. Their owners occupy Council seats across the County. They are huge supporters of our health and cultural institutions, not to mention the municipal tax base. The Internet world has brought industries like Patient News Publishing and Supertrax International to the County. Cottagers retire here, permanently, in ever increasing numbers.

The political and social challenge for Haliburton County over the next few decades may well be how we adapt to this new reality while retaining our spirit, grace, and passionate sense of shared community values. Not an easy task, not in this century of unforgiving consumerism and lightning fast change. ■

Illustrated by Kath Watson

Well. The only thing you FORGOT to bring was your memory pills!!



Editor's Note: in the February 14th issue of the Voice we printed a story on Algonquin Highlands Council's response to a proposal to offer a Sausage, Hot Dog and Snack Wagon at the Dorset Tower. The authors of the proposal have written the following letter to the Council, with a copy to the Voice. The matter will be debated at next week's Council Meeting on April 3rd.

Dear Editor:

We felt our proposal of the hotdog/beverage cart located at the Dorset tower would be a win/win situation for all involved. We planned on employing a local student, helping to inject funds back into the community,

Letter of the Week

increase the traffic flow to the tower, and lastly develop a new business in our town.

We do understand if the "Township of Algonquin highlands does not have a business bi-law in place that would permit and provide administration requirements of such licenses" and also understand if the "property is zoned rural" and therefore cannot support private operations. But in the same thought process we think the township needs to consider how to start attracting new business to our down-town core rather than how to shut new ideas down. All of our neighboring communities are experiencing growth with new business and services and unfortunately Dorset doesn't seem to be growing or evolving at the same rate. How many new businesses have started in Dorset in the past 10 years? How do we attract new business to our town? How do we attract greater numbers of tourists to our town? How do we attract new residences to our town? A good place to start the process is by welcoming new ideas and encouraging new entrepreneurs to invest in our community. Dorset needs new growth and development and the town has to accept that change isn't always bad.

How does the township acquire this "business licensing by-law" that would permit similar ventures? We think this town should consider getting the ball rolling considering similar ventures have been prospering for years in the town of Huntsville and Haliburton. These privately owned/operated businesses seemed to be able to acquire the proper licenses. I presume that because the property is zoned rural that this enables the township to charge admission to the tower but will not allow the sale of food/beverages at the tower?

Lastly the disheartening and insulting part of our proposal being turned down is the article published in the County Voice. It more the insults us to see an idea that we proposed thorough the appropriate channels, slapped with a title "Will they eat

Letters cont'd... pg. 8 >>

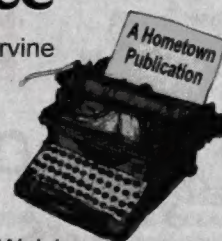
Letters To The Editor Welcomed !!

We love getting Letters to the Editor - so let us know what you have to say. You can email them to letters@countyvoice.ca, or mail to Letters - Box 930 Haliburton, Ont. K0M 1S0 - or drop them off at the office located in the lower level of Stedman's Mall in Haliburton.

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Managing Editor: Stephen Patrick
Sports Editor: Terrance Gavan
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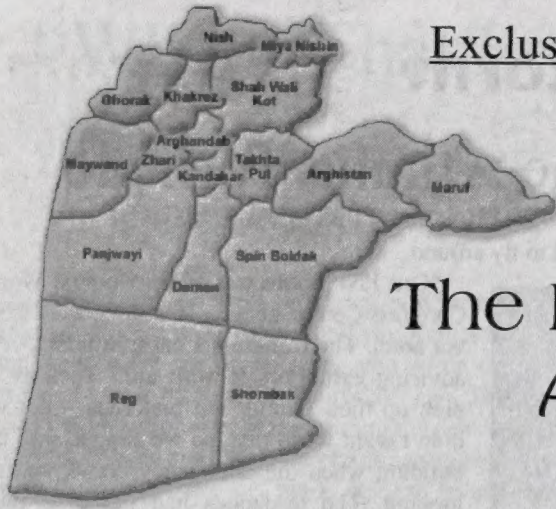
Published by: Brett & Joanne Irvine

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Exclusive to the County Voice - Part 9

Everyone who deploys must ship their Unaccompanied Baggage (UAB) a minimum of 30 days before deployment. These items are shipped via commercial carrier and are expected to arrive within the first few weeks of your arrival in theatre.

The Road to Kandahar *A Soldier's Journal*

by Captain David Beatty

Time To Pack

For most readers, a trip normally involves packing a suitcase and heading to the airport (or if traveling with your wife – packing three or four). Normally you pack based upon the events you are planning on attending, or the activities you plan to participate in, which should make packing for a trip relatively simple, right?

However packing for a deployment is something completely different. You have to pack what you feel you will need for the next nine months of your life into two boxes (2 x 3 x 3) – in essence you have been allocated 36 cubic feet in which to pack your life. Even more importantly, you are packing up items which you feel you will need while in theatre, but must be prepared to live without until your second month on the tour. This makes selection of items very crucial as you deploy with a rucksack, barrack's box and one kit bag (essentially all of your "war fighting" equipment) and space is extremely limited: 100 kgs is the max allowed. All of your creature comforts must travel as Unaccompanied Baggage (UAB).

Everyone who deploys must ship their Unaccompanied Baggage (UAB) a minimum of 30 days before deployment. These items are shipped via commercial carrier and are expected to arrive within the first few weeks of your arrival in theatre. However; from personal experience, I have found that my UAB never tends to arrive until I have already run out of shaving cream, and my one pair of running shoes that I initially deployed with have been classified as a toxic hazard!

Most individual's UAB consists of spare uniforms, toothbrushes, toiletries, clothing to wear on leave, PT equipment, movies, books etc, strictly items to make your life more enjoyable. On one of my previous tours

a fellow packed his accordion – which while it may have provided him with some comfort playing the instrument – for the rest of us – there was very little pleasure coming from it! In my case several bottles of Maple Syrup have found their way into one of my boxes, which proudly bear the Beatty's Sugar Bush Made in Haliburton label. This should lead for some interesting breakfast conversations in Kandahar in the upcoming months.

Once the UAB has been packed and itemized (5 copies of a manifest for each box) – it is inspected by Canada Customs and the dreaded "Traffic Technicians" who inspect the contents to ensure there is no contraband in the UAB – I can hardly wait to see the faces of the Traffic Technicians as I point out to them that the 24 bottles in my UAB are Maple Syrup and not Scotch!

With my UAB now packed and awaiting inspection, I can not help but point out to my wife that inevitable question – Why can I fit everything I need to deploy for nine months into two boxes – and you fill the van just to go skiing for the weekend???



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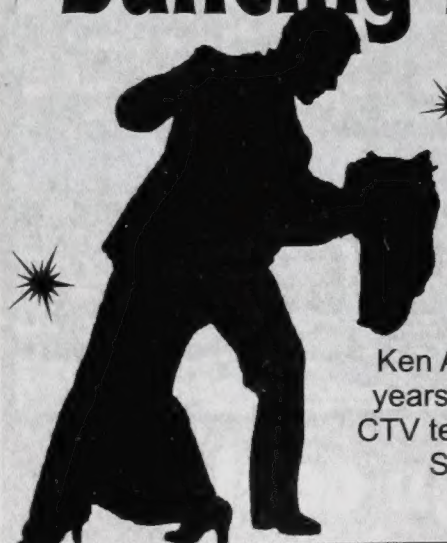
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The Eye of the Storm

Patient News Execs Caught in the Atlanta Tornado



"A
whirlwind
experience
— to say the
least"

It was supposed to be just a routine sales convention. Patient News Publishing (PNP) Sales Manager Jon Petrie and Sales Executive Craig Bowker were winding down their three day stint at a

Dental Trade show on Friday March 14th in downtown Atlanta Georgia. They'd just got back to their 27th floor room in

the ultra-modern Westin Peach Tree Plaza Hotel, a 73 story cylindrical all-glass Atlanta landmark, when they decided to kick back and order room service. Jon noticed that the wind seemed to be picking up just as their meal arrived — when he got up to answer the door he looked out the window and saw building debris floating by.

"That's when we began to get a little concerned," says Bowker.

Concerned? In an glass building 27 floors up with debris floating by? Do these guys have families? Insurance? Mums?

"Jon said that it looked a lot like a tornado to him — and that's when the glass on the floors around us started to shatter and fall into the street below — we took refuge in the washroom until there was a lull, then beat it to the elevator, which was, thankfully, still working."

Petrie says he certainly felt 'echoes of 911' as he puts it. Not that there was any hint of terrorism, just that the thought of being trapped in a skyscraper with no way out has a certain resonance. As does, maybe, being on the 27th floor in a room with windows about to shatter in 175 kph winds. "There was intense rain and lightning as well," remembers Bowker. "When we got down to the lobby there was certainly a lot of activity. Outside the police were trying to make sure the streets were safe — the tornado had passed, but the streets were full of debris, with aluminum roofing caught up in trees and dry wall and insulation all over the place."

At 1:30 in the morning the police and hotel staff began to allow guests to return to their rooms, at least the ones that still had windows. "We found out later that over 100 of these 8 foot by 8 foot windows had been shattered." During the night the winds came up again and

at 5 AM more glass and debris started to fly around.



"Our PNP booth was at the Georgia World Congress Centre, about a 10 minute walk from the hotel. The Congress Centre officials were advising exhibitors to wait until Tuesday to pick up their booths and materials — but we didn't want to do that, so we slipped into the building when the emergency crews weren't looking. The tornadoes had put a 40-foot-wide hole in the roof of the centre, squashing exhibitor booths when it crashed down. But we managed to get to our booth, which wasn't damaged, and got it ready to ship."

"Then the National Weather Service came on over the Congress Centre sound system to say that another tornado was 'on the ground' and we were to take cover immediately so we ran to a small conference room and stayed there until we got the all clear."

The intrepid duo then made their way through hail and high winds back to their

hotel, the one with the windows missing, before winging it home safe and sound the next day to Haliburton, presumably with the exhibition booth. All in a day's work? Not exactly. "I think I've had enough of tornadoes," says Bowker. "After the two we've survived in Haliburton, and now this, I think I'll try to avoid them from now on." A sound business plan, to be sure. ■



Jon Petrie & Craig Bowker

Behind: The Westin Hotel missing its windows.

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"What's That Fencing on the Ice?"

Highland Cup Organizer's Cleanup Frozen in Time

The Highland Cup snowmobile races were held on Head Lake nearly four weeks ago. But if you were new to the area and went to the site of the races, you might think that the event just took place a few short days ago. The Voice has been fielding a lot of calls concerning the debris.

Orange fencing and several hay bales can still be seen laying on the surface of the ice. Some concern from community members has arisen over the situation, but Highland Cup 2008 organizer Harold Foyster is assuring the public that the materials will be taken care of.

"The fencing has to stay up until the snow and ice have melted," Foyster said this week. "Right after the race we had a rain storm and then a flash freeze which cemented the fencing into the ice. That fencing is worth a lot of money, and I need it for next year's race. To tear it out before there's a big thaw would just destroy it. So we'll be waiting a little while longer – I hope people will be patient. There's no intention of leaving it there, that's for sure.

The straw bales that are on the shore will also be picked up soon, and any remaining straw on the ice will be collected when the ice is melting."

Harold will be giving his final report on the Highland Cup to Council in the near future, and looks forward to staging the event again next year. And don't worry: the fencing and straw will be gone as soon as Mother Nature decides this seemingly endless winter can come to an end. ■



Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

On March 28, 1979, the worst accident in the history of the U.S. nuclear power industry begins when a pressure valve in the Unit-2 reactor at the Three Mile Island plant near Harrisburg, Pa., fails to close. As engineers struggled to understand what had happened, the reactor came within less than an hour of a complete meltdown.

On March 29, 1927, Major Henry O'Neil de Hane Segrave becomes the first person to break the 200-mph barrier. Driving a 1,000 horsepower Mystery Sunbeam, Segrave averaged 203.79 mph on the course at Daytona Beach, Fla.

On March 30, 1820, Anna Sewall, author of "Black Beauty," is born in Norfolk, England. "Black Beauty," first published in 1877, was the first significant children's story in the English language to focus on animal characters and was made into a movie at least three times.

On March 31, 1889, the Eiffel Tower is dedicated in Paris. At 984 feet tall, the Eiffel Tower remained the world's tallest man-made structure until the completion of the Chrysler Building in New York in 1930.

On April 1, 1700, English pranksters begin popularizing the annual tradition of playing April Fool's jokes. In keeping with the fun in 1957, the BBC reported that Swiss farmers were experiencing a record spaghetti crop and showed footage of people harvesting noodles from trees.

Council or Fire Department.....

What's it to be?

Liz Daniels
Staff Reporter

The two guys in suits had the trucks ready to roll!

The answer is likely both, but picture this! Its nine o'clock in the morning and the Highlands East Council are set to call their meeting to order. Just then a call to a structural fire comes in! Reeve Dave Burton and Deputy Reeve Jim Mackie dash from the room, loosening their ties as they go, responding as all fire fighters are trained to do. Three members of Council, several staff and a number of visitors are left almost scratching their heads, wondering for just a moment what's happened and how they should proceed.

Recovery around the table was quick, the remaining members of Council appointed Councillor Suzanne Partridge as their Chair and the meeting carried on without a hitch until Burton and Mackie returned. They were covered off by other fire fighters within a short period of time.

Fortunately the fire, while no doubt causing the owners quite a scare, was not serious. Damage to the home at #3837 on the Loop Road was limited to furniture and the interior of the home. While it was first thought to have been caused by water leaking onto an electrical outlet, according to Fire Chief Bill Wingrove, it was quickly found to have been caused by a power bar. The power bar caught fire which then spread to a desk.

Wingrove says "it's a good thing the owner called when he did!" According to the Fire Chief "the two guys in suits had the trucks ready to roll just as I was pulling into the office." He said the department's response time was "just excellent." Eight men responded and they got everything under control very quickly but the equipment stayed on site for several hours to ensure that everything was safe before they left. Wingrove said that as soon as the tanker was on site he was able to relieve Burton and Mackie, who returned to their Council meeting.

Strangely enough, the quick response by both the Reeve and Deputy Reeve caused some friction later in the meeting. Councillor Gary Stoughton voiced his concern that they had left the meeting, somehow implying they had left the rest of Council in the lurch. Procedural requirements simply necessitate a quorum of Council (three of the five members) in order to proceed with a meeting. Indeed everything did go off without any problems until they returned, but Stoughton seemed to feel that either Burton or Mackie should resign from the Fire Department.

When confronted with this, Deputy Reeve Mackie was quick to say that even before Council his priority would always be the lives and homes of the residents of Highlands East, adding that he had no intention of resigning. Reeve Burton also confirmed after the meeting that his priority was with the Municipality overall, but the safety of residents would always come first. Burton also says that (at this time) he has no intention of resigning either. ■



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Letters to the Editor cont'd...

... from pg. 4

>> it up, or chew on it and spit it out". Now doesn't that just give the impression that new business is welcomed to the area? Rather it seems that new ideas have to be backed up by a team of lawyers because there is sure to be a dispute. And how does the manager of the site know that there "wasn't a great opportunity present at the location for generating revenue"? We find that hard to believe, as if there was no revenue generated why would the township keep a "manned" gate at the entrance and charge a fee to every car? There has to be enough revenue generated to pay wages to this person weekly and also make a profit or why do it? How many people go through those gates every season? Would we be

able to see figures for that?

In conclusion we still want to pursue this venture on our own property and possibly more. What licenses do we need for our own property and also what license is required for other private properties? What licenses are required for public properties? Some constructive answers and thoughts would be greatly appreciated and maybe encourage others to also invest in our community

Dale Webb
Laura Walker
Fred Heinzler
Avery Audio, Dorset, ON ■

"Townships should reconsider BEAR WISE program"

Re: Article in County Voice March 13, 2008

Dear Editor: Please make no mistake: communities do need to be bear wise and local residents and cottage owners should participate in the Bear Wise Program. But it would be a huge mistake for landfill sites to do what the township is proposing.

Isn't it sad that we have to come to this, when the answer would have been to continue the spring bear hunt; to keep the bear population at stable numbers and bringing thousands of dollars into our community? But instead we are now spending thousands of taxpayer's dollars on ideas that are not fixing the problem. The idea of bins and fencing is going to make it even worse. Bears have gone to our landfill sites for years and years, so what is the problem with it now? The only reason they go to the landfill sites to get food is when there is a lack of natural food in the bush and over population of bears. Wouldn't you rather see bears go to the landfill sites to eat our waste then break into our houses and cottages to get our food, which then puts your family in danger? Where would you rather see them go???

They HAVE and will break into houses and cottages and if this is the case your pets and kids will be in more danger then ever before. If you are concerned about safety at the landfill sites then encourage patrons to dump their garbage and leave, not to gather and watch the bears

like they were at a zoo. I live close to a landfill site and the bears use my property to get to the dump and I have never had a problem.

Why? Because we are Bear Wise with our home by not leaving anything out that may attract the bears and the bears know where they are going for food, the LANDFILL SITE, just like they have for many years. If you stop bears from going to the landfill sites they will be in everyone's backyard searching for food and even more bears are going to be needlessly shot. There are far more bears wasted and orphaned now then there ever was when they could be hunted in the spring; and this idea is going to make it even worse.

It absolutely amazes me how we can spend more money just to create bigger problems! Wouldn't it be nice not to have to worry about our kids playing in a schoolyard, park or backyard, and wouldn't be nice not to worry when you are taking your dog for a walk. If we want people to relax and have a safe summer in our community then let bears go to the landfill sites rather then our cottages and our homes.

Erin Nicholls
Haliburton ON ■

Thank You...

Dear Editor:
"Thank you" ...On behalf of Haliburton Fire Department, I would like to say thank you to the many volunteers that helped out during the fire at The Mountain Street Apartments on March 19/2008. On our arrival one room was fully engulfed in flames. The firefighters acted quickly containing the fire to one room. The building however had sustained smoke and water damage. This now meant that the residents had to be evacuated to the Curling Club.

It takes many hands to provide the services needed to evacuate residences, while trying to find accommodation for others. This is a list of agencies we wish to thank
Churko Electric, Dymo Bus - Tim Smith
Dysart Roads - Brian Nicholson, Haliburton County EMS, Haliburton County OPP, Haliburton Curling Club, Health and Social Services - Bob Knight, Kawartha/Haliburton Victim Services, Pinestone Golf & Conference Resort,

There was also too many individual volunteers, to numerous to mention. The residences of this apartment complex where pre alerted to this fire by a working smoke alarm system. This probably saved lives. Please remember!

Landlords - It is the responsibility of the landlord to ensure their rental properties comply with the law.

Tenants - If you are a tenant of a rental property and do not have the required number of smoke alarms, contact your landlord immediately. It is against the law for tenants to remove batteries or tamper with the alarm in any way.

Don Stephenson
Haliburton Fire and Rescue ■

Kelly Shires Breast Cancer Facts

Dear Editor:

Hi People,

Thank you to Mark Arike for his coverage of the Highland Cup and in particular, Elizabeth Jesseman's fundraising for breast cancer patients. However, Mark's report gave the impression that the 2008 Kelly Shires Breast Cancer Snow Run (held at the Delta Pinestone in February) raised \$7,200 when in fact that was the amount raised by Elizabeth Jesseman on her own as a participant in the ride. The ride raised over \$230,000!

Elizabeth has already started to raise money for next year's ride, hence her booth at the Highland Cup. This is a very grass-roots, personal crusade which is an inspiration to those of us who wonder what we could do to make the world a better place.

Norma Goodger,
Kushog Lake ■

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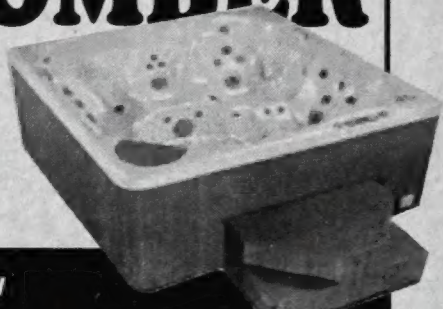
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A Cause for Concern

Mark Arike
Staff Reporter

"We get a lot of B&Es (break and enters) in spurts. Years ago, we didn't have this many. There's a lot more transient traffic now."

That's what Const. Mark McMaster of the Haliburton Highlands OPP detachment had to say after the recent robbery at Sunny's Variety, followed by a string of break and enters across Haliburton County.

Petty crimes like shoplifting, vandalizing of property and mischief happen in every city or town regardless of size. But after the vicious armed robbery attack took place at the variety store, it left many of the local businesses owners wondering how something so serious in nature could happen in their town.

"I've never heard of anything like this happening, especially in Minden" said Manager of Pioneer Petroleum Nemy Goweni. "We've never had a problem like that here," said Goweni. She says that the biggest problem at her business is people who commit "drive-aways"

— those who take gas without paying.

Nemy says that there are 16 cameras all over the building and property. Her employees have also been well prepared on how to deal with a crime in progress.

"We tell them never to fight or argue with anyone. Just give the person what they want."

"We probably will add more cameras and will clear out our safe more often," said Minden Stedmans Owner John Thomas. "I'm concerned for everyone. If it happened once it can happen again." Thomas says that he has taken the necessary steps to ensure that employees know how to approach these situations.

"I've gone through with the employees what to do if it happens." Thomas says he recognizes that regular break-ins occur, however, an incident of this nature seems to be right out of the ordinary.

"Something like that is heavy-duty jail time. It's not like stealing chocolate."

"I have lots of problems with younger people," said Minden Food Mart Owner Kevin Kim. He says that there are troublemakers in the area who have caused

"Something like that is heavy-duty jail time. It's not like stealing chocolate."

problems for him and his store. He has also heard about others stores with similar incidents happening.

"A window was broken outside (here). I heard that there have been lots of problems in Carnarvon," said Kim.

"You don't think that there are people like that around here," said Pharmasave Minden Drug

of what happened so that "people don't get ideas."

"In the morning when we came to work, the door was open, a steel cabinet was broken and everything was all over the place," said

North Steel Owner Hans Walter, whose business on Gelert Rd. was also broken in to. "Around \$100 was taken...this has never happened in 20 years that I've been here." Walter went on to say that it appeared as though the culprits had no idea of what they were doing or where they were going in his building.

"The way they broke in, they were strangers. They were really

"We had just some petty cash stolen," said Murray Coles, Resource Director for the Lakeside Baptist Church. "They came in through the back door and ruined the cupboard that the safe was in. We have no idea who it could be." Coles says that the occurrence has left him feeling a little uneasy.

"I think about it every night," he said.

St. George's Anglican Church in Haliburton was also broken into. It was the second time in two months that the church has been broken into.

Const. Mark McMaster of the Haliburton Highlands OPP detachment says that it is still unclear as to who the suspects in the break-ins are.

"Hopefully we'll get a call from someone," says McMaster. According to the officer,

there have been a total of 26 break-ins in the County for this year as of Wednesday, March 19, which is half last year's total. McMaster has no explanation for the difference, except to point out again that these B&Es often come in waves.

"We get a lot of B&Es (break and

enters) in spurts. Years ago, we didn't have this many. There's a lot more transient traffic now." It is unknown whether the individuals involved are local or not.

If you have information at all that could assist police in solving these cases, you are encouraged to call the OPP Communications Centre at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). Crime Stoppers is completely anonymous and does not subscribe to call display. You will not testify in court and you may be eligible for a cash reward of up to \$2000. ■

left to right Hawk River Construction, Lakeside Baptist Church, & Country Rose are just a few locations where breakins occurred



lost. Someone who knows the place would know where to look." He said that it was evident they were looking for cash and nothing else.

"Cheques were all over the floor, but they didn't take those because they knew they would get caught if they tried to cash them."

At Hawk River Construction in Haliburton, cash was also taken.

"We don't know how they got in," said employee Britney Miscio. "They got a couple of hundred dollars. I had an I-Pod and digital camera sitting on my desk and they didn't touch them."

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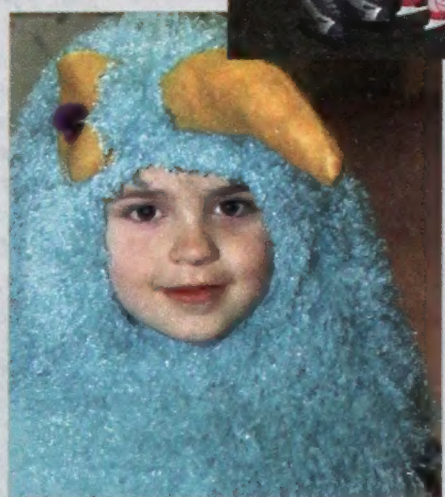
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Young Skaters in Minden Put on Their Best Outfits



Going Under the Sea

A vast array of colourful, glitzy costumes, were sported by those set to skate in Water Mania at the Minden Figure Skating Clubs skate/dress rehearsal at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial arena in Minden.

Skaters between the ages of 3-15 turned into lobsters, sea horses, starfish and various other underwater creatures on Wednesday, March 19. This was an afternoon for skaters to give away a sneak-peak of what their grand show coming up on Saturday, March 29 will be like.

"We thought it would be a good idea to let them have their pictures taken and to let people know when the event is happening," said Carnival Chair Stacey Bennett. The show will be a venue at which kids will be able to

show-off some of the moves they've been diligently working on all winter long.

"I think it's important because they've worked so hard all year and now they get to showcase what they've learned," said Bennett.

All skaters will perform routines, including group and solo skits. Children skate with those who are equivalent to their skill level. Kerri Matyssek, Kim Sisson and Jane Symons are the three coaches who have been instructing the students.

According to Bennett, tickets for Water Mania will be available on the day of the event and will be \$5 for adults and \$3 for students. ■

Photos By:
Lyn Winans

Lack of Service in Highlands East

"I'd hate to see a fire crew or ambulance attempt this road."

Liz Daniels
Staff Reporter

"There seems to be a general lack of service to some streets in Highlands East". At least that's how Paul Hazen sees things. Hazen, who said he was writing on behalf of 20 or more taxpayers who have complained to no avail in the past, sent a scathing e-mail to the Highlands East Council saying that some of the streets were like skating rinks last week.

He also said that he only saw one township truck scrape a bit of snow off the road but fail to put down any salt or sand. When he tried to contact the Road Superintendent on Monday a recording referred him to the Municipal Office. Hazen says if the roads crew were going to rest, his tax dollars would be at rest too.

According to Hazen, Mumford Road, which he uses on Tuesdays and Saturdays to go the landfill has been impassable to any vehicle without 4 wheel drive, and he plans to use winter tires with studs for the trip next year. Hazen says there's no one to call to "bitch and complain" but their elected representatives and that's exactly what he did.

Councillor Suzanne Partridge was the first to receive the e-mail and she immediately made a number of calls and then drove around to check things out. She said "The roads are deplorable. Anyone would be taking their life in their hands on Mumford Road." Partridge added that it was an appalling situation and very dangerous to the people in their community. She added that the Roads Department may be low on sand, but it is their job to ensure that the roads are safe and residents are not at risk.

As Councillor Gary Stoughton put it "There's something wrong here. These are our taxpayers who pay for the Municipality's trucks and our employees and we've got to do something!"

The Council was unanimous in their concern about the performance of their own Roads Department, and asked the CAO to speak with the Road Superintendent to ensure that things do not get out of hand again. ■

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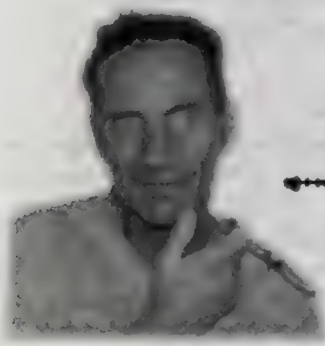
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Terrance Gavan
Sports Editor

Boycott of the Games Should Remain a Viable Strategy

Chinese government troops are desecrating monasteries and killing monks in Tibet.

Amnesty International reports that: "China is failing to live up to promises to improve human rights it made when bidding for the 2008 Olympics. As well as widespread use of the death penalty, the persecution of democracy activists and media restrictions, the report documents cases of excessive punishment of residents protesting about being forced from their homes to make way for Olympic projects. Amnesty has sent the lengthy document to the International Olympic Committee, urging it to hold China to its promises."

Here's what I think about that.

Hey dudes over at Amnesty International. Don't sit there waiting to exhale while waiting for an answer from IOC President Jacques Count Rogge. Count Rogue (sic) and his band of renowned and pasty recalcitrants like to partake in chilled shrimp, cold caviar and Dom Perignon. They are tepid and mealy mouthed. They never saw a fight they couldn't duck, juke or jive. You'll get smarmy platitudes; you'll get spineless tripe; you'll get shopworn clichés; you'll get drivel; you'll get banal mumblings; and you will get large portions of bovine excrement. But you won't get an answer.

Here's what China did last week. They desecrated a few monasteries in Tibet. They flew the Chinese flag above the monasteries knowing that it would inflame the locals. Then they went out and variously shot, stabbed and brained some Tibetan monks who had the audacity to take umbrage over the desecration.

Here's what I think about that.

Tell me more, cos' I want to get a firm grip on just how ugly this whole thing is getting.

"Tibet's exiled government said overnight that about 30 people had been killed during unrest in Lhasa, as Chinese troops locked down the city amid fierce international scrutiny ahead of the Olympics," says Reuters News.

The government in exile thinks 30 is on the low side. They are advising that the real tally stands closer to 100. We'll never know because the Chinese have locked down the borders and barred free access to the world press.

You know why.

Because of the Olympics; and the subsequent void in the karmic whole that bad press over "strategic genocide" might inflict on the Games. After all. What's a few dead monks, when run up against the marvelous and splendid backdrop of bonhomie, benevolence, goodwill and giggles galore that the Olympic Flame is intended to kindle?

Here's what Count Rogue thinks about that.

"The events in Tibet are a matter of great concern to the IOC," the convoluted Count said in a statement. "The IOC has already expressed the hope that this conflict should be resolved peacefully as soon

as possible. Violence for whatever reason is contrary to the Olympic values and spirit."

Here's what I think about that.

Count Rogue, before he jumped on the ermine-lined and jewel encrusted IOC bandwagon - known fondly as the Olympic Pork Barrel Express (OPBS - heavy on the BS), - was an orthopedic surgeon. Maybe that's why attempting to extract meaningful insight from the vicinity of the malignant maw of Mr. Rogue is a little akin to pulling teeth.

Here's something else the eloquently myopic Count Rogue has to say about the recent spate of thinly disguised genocide undertaken by our benevolent Olympic hosts.

"We believe that China will change by opening the country to the scrutiny of the world through the 25,000 media who will attend the Games," Rogge said. "The Olympic Games are a force for good. They are a catalyst for change, not a panacea for all ills. Awarding the Olympic Games to the most populous country in the world will open up one fifth of mankind to Olympism."

Here's what I think about that.

What the hell is Olympism? And who gave you the right to coin cutesy new phrasologisms. Hey Jacques, baby. Now you're wandering into my neighborhood. I snap the prose. You stick to dabbling in bland syllogism and I'll handle the silly colloquialisms. But I digress.

Here's what some world leaders and non-government organizations (NGOs) are saying about China's intransigence in the face of withering public disgust with Beijing's doctrinaire and reprehensible civil rights record.

Others around the world have been calling for the IOC to put pressure on China to change the way it views Tibet and also to help end the situation in Darfur (read genocide), where Beijing yields a large amount of influence.

Here's what Count Rogue has to say about that.

"NGOs and human rights' activists want to leverage the games and ask the IOC to act along by their side," Rogge said. "The IOC respects NGOs and activist groups and their causes, and speaks regularly with them - but we are neither a political nor an activist organization."

"The IOC will continue to respect the cause of the human rights. The IOC will work tirelessly with China for the welfare of the athletes and the success of the Olympic Games."

Here's what one NGO, Reporters Without Borders have to say about that.

Reporters Without Borders have asked world leaders to not attend the Olympics.

"Calling for a complete boycott of the Olympic Games

is not a good solution," said Reporters Without Borders. "The aim is not to deprive athletes of the world's biggest sports event or to deprive the public of the spectacle. But it would be outrageous not to firmly demonstrate one's disagreement with the Chinese government's policies and not to show solidarity with the thousands of victims of this authoritarian regime."

Here's what I think about that.

Reporters Sans Frontieres are talking outta' both sides of their collective hats. Hollywood director Steven Spielberg was supposed to be the artistic advisor for both the opening and closing ceremonies, but he pulled out last month because of China's connection to Sudan and the violence in Darfur. Why is there such a lukewarm response to a boycott of this regime, which has quite literally reneged on every promise it made to the IOC and to the world?

Here's what Lord Acton said about that.

"Power tends to corrupt; absolute power corrupts absolutely."

Here's what we know about that. Morality wanes as power waxes.

China's power stems from numbers. Sheer numbers and a seemingly unlimited and burgeoning marketplace forms fuel that fires the entrepreneurial engine. China wields essential power. Because China has something venture capitalists need: Access to an unlimited and very willing marketplace.

Here's what George Orwell said about that kind of power.

"Power is not a means, it is an end. One does not establish a dictatorship in order to safeguard a revolution; one makes the revolution in order to establish the dictatorship. The object of persecution is persecution. The object of torture is torture. The object of power is power."

Here's what Chairman Mao once said about power.

"Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun."

Here's what we know about that.

Things haven't changed much in China since ol' Chairman Mao disappeared into the fog back in 1976.

Here's what I think about that.

Maybe it's time to stow the rhetoric.

Maybe it's time to step up to the plate.

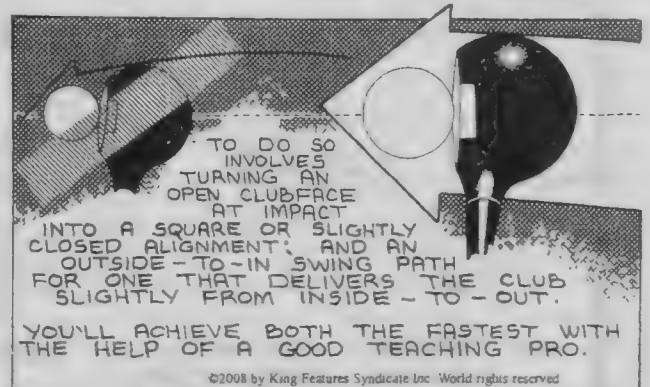
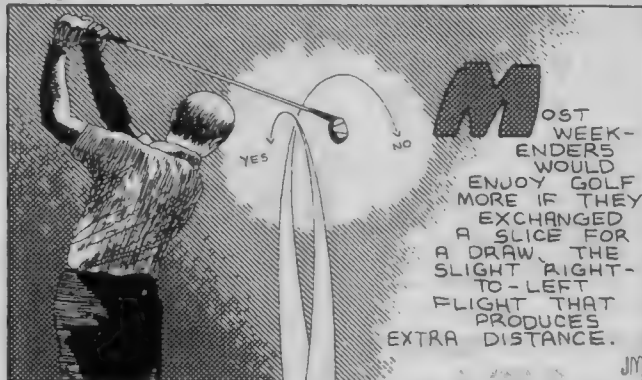
Maybe it's time to show due diligence.

Maybe it's time to confront the arrogance of a nation that moves on the world's stage seemingly bereft of a sense of ethic.

And maybe, just maybe, it's time to boycott Beijing. ■

Sports Column

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To see your new Haliburton Foodland, pay a visit to Bob and his staff for some free coffee and cake, plus a ribbon cutting ceremony with special guest, Reeve Murray. Fearney starting at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, March 28. ■



STARTS FRIDAY, MARCH 20

may not be exactly as pictured





Duchene and Hodgson Shine, But Battalion on Brink

Brampton is Staring at Elimination

BAM!

Cajun's chucking chef, the inimitable Emeril Lagasse, might call goaltending the ingredient that "kicks everything up a notch" in the playoffs.

tario Hockey League (OHL) junior series.

Despite an all out assault that borders on domination, the Battalion find themselves staring at elimination, down by a margin of three games to one in the best-of-seven series.

Barrie eliminated the Troops in the opening round of the last two seasons. The Colts won their 2006 series 4-1 and last year they eliminated the Battalion in four straight games.

Haliburton products Cody Hodgson and Matt Duchene are both having a stellar series. Hodgson has an amazing 5 goals in the four games and Duchene has a goal and an assist.

But both players, like all of their teammates, have been stymied when it comes to solving Colt netminder Michael Hutchinson.

Last Tuesday's fourth game formed a case in point.

Barrie won the game 2-1 in overtime to push the Troops to the brink of elimination.

In the loss, the second-seeded Battalion peppered Hutchinson with 63 shots, including 16 in overtime. Cody Hodgson scored the only goal of the game for the Troops who could not solve the mystery of Michael.

Indeed, Michael has emerged as the archangel of the Colts who have been outshot handsomely in all four games of the series. Shots on goal after game three stood at 133-99 in favor of Brampton. The Battalion now have 196 shots on Hutchinson, but still find themselves staring at a third straight first round elimination at the hands of Barrie.

Previous Game Summaries

In the series opener last Thursday (March 20) Tomas Marcinko scored two third-period goals, including an empty-netter, to lift the Colts to a 3-1 victory. Hodgson scored the Battalion's lone marker.

In game two, played last Saturday, Daniel Michalsky's second goal of the game, at 13:35 of overtime, gave Barrie a 3-2 extra inning victory. Hodgson and Thomas Stajan scored for the Battalion, which finished first in the Central Division, 26 points ahead of the fourth-place Colts.

Last Sunday Duchene scored a very important goal and had one assist as the Battalion defeated the Colts 5-1. The Battalion led a tight game 2-1 when Duchene scored his first playoff goal at 16:44 of the third period, gathering a Luke Lynes rebound and snapping the puck past prone Barrie goaltender Michael Hutchinson.

Duchene, quoted on the Brampton website, summed up what coach Stan Butler probably already knows about their opposing goalie.

"Those are the kinds of goals you have to get on a guy like Hutchinson because he's so good," said Duchene. "You have to keep crashing the net and getting those rebounds."

Hodgson added a shorthanded empty-net goal at 18:46 and then pounced on a turnover to beat Hutchinson with a long wrist shot at 19:42.

Game 5 is scheduled for 7 p.m. tonight at Brampton, with the sixth game, if necessary, at Barrie at 7:30 p.m. next Saturday. Game seven would be played on Monday March 31st in Brampton. ■

OPP Take On The Youth... ... and Lose

A talented and determined team of J. Douglas Hodgson Grade 8 hockey players managed to defeat a slightly ageing, but no less determined, OPP Minden squad in an Exhibition game held last Thursday at the Dysart Arena. The entire school attended the event which saw the JDH boys and girls survive some very questionable OPP tactics (aren't the OPP supposed to enforce the rules?) to win a squeaker, 6 - 5. "This is an extremely popular event for all the students," said JDH Principal Traci Hubbert. "We bus the entire student body over and the atmosphere's just great." The OPP has a special role to play with middle-school students and maintains a high profile at JDH and at Archie Stouffer in Minden, and these events are an important part of that work. ■



Constable Brian Sacks & JDH Goalie Rob Lewis



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Development Crackdown in Minden Hills?

"People come here to look at the lakes and trees, not signs

It looks like things are about to get a little tougher when it comes to building and development in Minden Hills. Even though strict regulations already exist when it comes to construction in the Municipality, discussions at the Council meeting earlier this month suggest that enforcement will be stepped up. Chief Building Official Ken Jones had several recommendations for Council that were well received.

First Jones spoke of concerns being raised about the 'cluttered' appearance of the downtown core, particularly during the tourist season when signs are seen everywhere. Jones asked Council for direction on a sign by-law for the Municipality. A lot of discussion took place about the issue with most of the Council in agreement that far too many signs are posted on both municipal and private property. In response to questions about how Council might control signs on private property Jones responded that the signs could be limited in size and style. Councillor Barbara Reid voiced her concern about restricting the efforts of businesses to attract trade particularly with the limited tourist season. She suggested the Council proceed with caution when taking steps that could limit trade in an area that is not prosperous. Concerns were raised about small signs being tacked up everywhere (on hydro poles and light standards). Several Council members were in support of sandwich board style signs, but felt the size should be limited. Concerns were also raised about overhead signs and their safety.

Jones assured Council that a by-law would not be established overnight as it required a lot of consideration to be acceptable to the public, but he added that a by-law would eliminate unsightly signs and establish guidelines for those Council wish to allow. Council agreed that a by-law would be beneficial and directed that further work be done at the Committee level and a draft by-law prepared for consideration.

Jones then recommended a phased-in approach to implement enforcement of HVAC design requirements for residential buildings. In efforts to minimize liability Jones recommended that all applications received after June 1st will require a declaration signed by an HVAC installer that the system has been designed, constructed and installed in accordance with the Ontario Building Code. Advance notice to builders, designers and property owners will give them an opportunity to prepare for the new requirements. Council supported this initiative.

During discussions about development, several members of Council raised questions about properties where trailers were

parked or buildings constructed without the benefit of a permit. Concerns were also raised about permits that were issued, but not followed through on and what recourse there was to ensure the development took place. Jones reported that he had held discussions with his staff about a number of outstanding issues. He suggested that the Municipal staff may have been 'over obliging' in the past and that, given potential exposure the Municipality might have to liability, he was "prepared to be stricter from an enforcement standpoint." Jones says that in the past staff would speak with residents about the process, but he feels that to reduce liability from this point on written orders should be issued detailing action required. Jones did suggest that Council may want to take a soft shoe approach, but if a building is on a property without benefit of a permit, the owner should at least be issued orders to repair the situation within a specified period of time. Jones also recommended that if a permit had been issued and the development was not underway, the CBO has the authority to revoke the permit. Jones will be providing Council with a listing of outstanding permits and further discussion is anticipated about enforcement at the next Council meeting. ■

Highlands East Council

Problem Solving for the Agricultural Fair

Where can we store our things safely? That's the question that the Board of Directors for Wilberforce Agricultural Fair has, because they're having a problem with storage. Ken Noble represented the Board at this week's Highlands East Council meeting with a request for assistance. Right now, according to Noble the Board has things stored all over the county and a lot of it is outside. Noble says that a number of their items have started to disappear which is very problematic as things like snow fence and stakes don't come cheap. In addition to things disappearing, outdoor storage is not a good solution as things are more open to the elements and subject to damage.

Noble reported that the Board has applied to HCDC in Haliburton for a 40x8x8' portable storage unit. The unit has back doors that open and a front door that rolls up which is ideal as it allows easy access to things like gates for the goat barn. The unit is quite substantial with hardwood flooring and the group plans to paint it white with green trim. Noble says there is no cost to the Municipality, but the Board would like approval to place the storage unit at the fairgrounds between the tennis courts and the south end of the goat barn, in an area that doesn't see much use.

Without further ado, Council granted approval for placement of the unit. ■

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Police Reports

Male Charged With Racing

Officers from the Haliburton Highlands Detachment have charged a Minden Hills man with racing after stopping a vehicle on March 20, 2008 shortly after 10:00pm.

An officer was patrolling southbound on Highway #35 south of Carnarvon when he observed a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. The vehicle was found to be traveling at more than 50 km/h over the posted 80 km/h speed limit. The vehicle was subsequently stopped by the officer.

Craig Hughes 22 years, of the Township of Minden Hills has been charged with Racing a Motor Vehicle and Careless Driving under the Highway Traffic Act. Mr. Hughes will be appearing in Minden Court on May 1, 2008 in relation to the charges. ■

Male Charged After Failing Breathalyzer

Officers from the Haliburton Highlands Detachment have charged a Pefferlaw man as a result of a vehicle stop shortly after midnight on March 22, 2008.

Officers were on patrol when they stopped a 2008 Chevy Silverado pickup truck on the Harburn Road. The officers had a conversation with the driver who was later arrested after failing a roadside breathalyzer test and taken to the Haliburton Highlands Detachment.

Roger Babineau, 46 years of Pefferlaw has been charged with Driving with Over 80mgs and will be appearing in Minden court on May 7, 2008 in relation to the charge. ■

Female Charged in Haliburton

Officers from the Haliburton Highlands Detachment have charged a Dysart Twp woman after stopping a vehicle in Haliburton early Sunday morning.

Officers were on patrol in Haliburton Village when they attempted to stop a Chevrolet Malibu on Mountain Street. The driver ignored the officers requests to pull over and sped off. The vehicle was eventually stopped in the driveway of the drivers home where the driver was arrested.

Charged with Dangerous Driving, Flight From Police and Driving While Under Suspension is Natalae Howe, 27 years of Dysart Twp. Ms. Howe will be appearing in Minden Court on May 7, 2008 in relation to the charges. ■

New Schedule Approved for Algonquin Highlands Council Meetings

Once again, it's one meeting a month for the Algonquin Highlands Council. Holding a single meeting each month during the summer has posed no problems in previous years, and the reduced schedule helps to accommodate staff holidays.

As the Council's Procedural By-law requires that any change in regularly scheduled meetings be advertised well in advance, the change won't take place until May and will run through to include September. Meeting dates for the summer months are scheduled for the third Thursday of each month and the dates suggested provide a relatively equal amount of time between meetings. The dates are as follows: May 15th, June 19th, July 17th, August 21st, September 18th

Council approved the meeting schedule with the understanding that should a heavy workload be encountered or emergency arise a special meeting can be called. Council also appointed a Finance Committee to review schedules of

accounts on a regular basis. This ensures timely payment of accounts and reduces interest charges. Reeve Eleanor Harrison and Councillor Moffatt accepted this responsibility with Councillor Griffin acting as an alternate should either of them be unavailable. ■

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The Easter Bunnies Sneaky Buddies: A Super Success!

As Easter Sunday approached this year the thrill of the hunt reached a little farther than our living rooms. As reported last week a group of people from our community banded together to deck the town with toys, art, inspirational messages and other goodies in time for Easter morning. An observer said they heard this anonymous group of bunny buddies sneaking through down town Haliburton at around 2a.m. on Sunday morning braving the cold and setting out gifts. When I arrived in town Easter morning it quickly became obvious the hunt was a success.

"I was so excited when I got to town, I got two notes, a picture frame and a toy... there was lots of other treats I could have picked up too but I thought I'd leave them, you know, give someone else the opportunity for a big grin!" said Melissa Baker of her happy haul.

By 9a.m. most of the 200 gifts had been scooped up and only a few friendly eggs remained along the street on window frames, parking meters and planters. "I was really excited about how quickly everything got snatched up... I mean we all knew they would go but it was really exciting to see how quickly it all happened and how eager everyone looked! It was exactly what we were hoping for!" said one group member. The group stuck to their word and only a few chocolates and candies could be found among the plethora of goodies. "We think it really important to promote healthy choices without taking the fun out of it." And they proved this with messages that said anything from "Remember when you were right the other day? You were!" and ones as simple as; "you are wonderful!" perhaps not earth shaking but things we all need to hear sometimes.

The group is planning on doing another Easter egg hunt next year but on a bigger scale. According to one group member the success of this hunt was



By Kathleen Atkinson

County Voice

only a confirmation how eager the community is to participate in such events. They are also in the process of coming up with other anonymous community based activities throughout the year. Samantha Rogers said, as she was picking up an egg in front of Bernstein's "the idea of getting the people in the community involved in something like this without them even being aware of it is a super neat idea... I read about it in the Voice but had no idea how much cool stuff there was going to be. Neato!"

If anyone would like to participate in setting up the next anonymous event or has any ideas for future activities e-mail the group at: anonymousfun@live.ca.



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Hungry Like A Bear!

*Field Naturalists
Prepare for the Black
Bear Season
in Haliburton
County*

It's all about food. That's what you would've learned about black bears if you attended the Haliburton Highlands Field Naturalists' presentation given by Bart Hillhorst of the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) on March 19.

Are bears territorial? Only if food is scarce. Why does that bear keep coming back to my property? It probably found food. How far will a bear roam? Males will travel up to 150 miles for a food source. Why do bears break into freezers? Either they smell food inside or they remember finding food in a freezer in the past. Will last year's bear return this year? Probably, if it got food.

Black bears are motivated by food. It's no wonder. They're awake for only 5-6 months of the year (from late April or May until late summer or early fall). They need to eat enough in the fall to sustain themselves during 6-7 months of hibernation. Pregnant females must also be able to nurse their newborn cubs during this time. When bears awake in the spring they're lean, groggy, hungry and in desperate need of something to eat. They are large, burly animals who prefer plants, berries and fruits over more



filling items like meat. "They can just eat gallons and gallons of that stuff," says Hillhorst. Most berries and fruits, however, don't really become abundant until August and

without their favourites on the menu, black bears turn to other food sources--garbage, bird seed and whatever else they can get their paws on. "Haliburton has not had a good berry crop in years," explains Hillhorst, who has been with the MNR for 33 years. While his main focus is forestry, Hillhorst has worked with bears for about twelve years. His presentation was not about the official MNR BearWise program and he made that clear right at the start. "It's kind of my own," he says. Unofficial presentation, unofficial advice. But a very interesting and informative talk by a bearded man who coincidentally resembles Grizzly Adams. Hillhorst explained how he grew up with a passion for wildlife--birds, mainly. Then one sunny morning, while working in Algonquin Park measuring water levels, he had a confrontation with a black bear. The bear charged at him and then, mysteriously and suddenly, it turned and left. "I went after the bear," he laughs. He couldn't catch up to it,

but it was this incident that sparked his interest in this big, black mammal of the forest. According to Hillhorst, "they're not cuddly teddy bears and they're not ferocious animals." He suggests making an encounter unpleasant for the bear. Make some noise. Throw rocks. "Taunt it, but make sure it has a place to go," he says. Hillhorst recommends not running from a black bear as this could instigate a chase. Give a bear room. Do not approach a bear. If the bear is pawing the ground and acting scared, you're probably okay. "Be careful," he warns. "Bears will find ways to get food." He showed photographs of a bear in several different positions as it tried to get at a bird feeder hanging on a line. Eventually the bear made it to the feeder, clung to the line and kicked the feeder to knock the seeds onto the ground. "Is that intelligence?" he marvels.

Haliburton is fascinated with bears. That's probably because, as Hillhorst explained, we are right in the middle of a high density area for black bears. "Everybody has a bear story," said Beth Madole when she introduced the speaker. That's probably why there was such a great turnout at the Haliburton Museum. The Field Naturalists welcomed many visitors, including a group of Boy Scouts from Minden. As one attendee left, she summed up the evening like this: "It was great. I just really enjoyed it."



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Community Library Board Suggested for Algonquin Highlands

Liz Danielsen

Staff Reporter

"Dorset residents will not stand to see another service taken away from their community!"

Everyone is interested in what happens to the libraries, but exactly what are they doing about them right now? Decisions about the libraries in Algonquin Highlands seem to be at an impasse at the moment, with no clear direction coming from anyone, including County Council.

But one woman is pushing for action. Jan McDonald, representing the Algonquin Co-op has stated her case to the Algonquin Highlands Council. McDonald reported the results of a survey that the Co-Op conducted regarding the library in Dorset, and presented Council with a summary of information found. She spoke with pride about the heightened levels of communication and partnership across the County and drew a parallel between the library project and 'Horton Hears a Who', a children's story about a small Town shouting together to have their voices heard.

McDonald says that with the results of the public meetings and the Co-Op's survey there's a solid base to move forward with. She spoke at length about the geographic challenges that residents face in the County and Municipality and suggested that, should the decision be made to have only one library, there would be support for it being situated in Dorset, as the more established community. McDonald added, however, that following the County Library Board meeting at the end of January, its clear residents want both libraries to remain open and the County seems willing to revisit their decision on closures.

McDonald said that it was at this point that the Co-Op decided to look at the problem from the grass roots level and determine exactly what's wanted in Dorset. McDonald said the majority of people surveyed voted to keep both libraries. She asked Council to think outside of the box and maintain a broader view of how to proceed, calling the fate of the libraries a catalyst for community development and a matter that had brought the history of Dorset to the forefront. McDonald suggested that voices speaking out through various mediums about libraries across the County have ignited the interest of many residents but she cautioned Council that in order to remain focused on any goal volunteers working on the project required leadership in order to stay energized.

Reeve Eleanor Harrison agreed that the Municipality had received a host of letters supporting both libraries and said "we haven't dealt with this yet and that's unfair to the public." McDonald responded that programming for the libraries is the responsibility of the Library Board and according to McDonald the leadership from that level is not evident at all.

McDonald said that based on the conclusion in Dorset that the library, as the heart of the community, could not be lost the Co-Op hired someone with the expertise to conduct some research and develop a survey for the community. McDonald provided an overview of the results and presented Council with an executive summary, but suggested that financial assistance would be required before the entire survey could be used by anyone outside of the Municipality.

The survey apparently indicates that there are some policy issues that must be revisited at the County level and active programming must be established for both sides of the building in Dorset. McDonald says it is evident that everyone wants something more

than the status quo in Algonquin Highlands and Reeve Harrison agreed that this was a key statement, adding that she felt Highlands East residents are of the same opinion.

McDonald reported that the Co-Op had mailed out 230 surveys and had paid for the costs of a mail drop. There was a 32% response rate to the survey which according to McDonald is considered high, given the fact that there was no incentive offered to complete the form. The survey indicated that two in five people access the library weekly or monthly and most use is personal. There were indications that the main reason for not using the library is that residents often buy books after finding the library closed. The most important indications for improvement included first and foremost increased hours of operation as well as additional programming, increased number of books and resource materials, more current books, more audio and large print books as well as books for children and youth. There were also indicators that the library's physical environment should be improved with additional shelving, enhanced lighting, seating and activity areas, all of which could be provided in the community centre. Many of the surveys indicated that the inter library loan system is extremely slow and needs revisiting.

McDonald said "Dorset residents will not stand to see another service taken away from the community!" She also said many of the issues are being raised simply because the community is isolated and working in partnership with Council would be a key element in moving forward. According to McDonald there are lots of established guidelines that Council can work with along with the information from the survey. She suggested Council establish an active committee with membership from both Dorset and Stanhope to look at all of the documents and research. With the support of Council the committee could provide long term recommendations on how the community should proceed. McDonald again stressed the fact that the cost of the survey had been significant for a non profit cooperative and that should Council decide to use the information cost sharing and a partnership would be welcomed. She also said that the Co-Op had been excited about working on the project and was willing to share their information, but they would like to see another group move forward.

Reeve Harrison supported the idea of a committee, being structured with members from Stanhope, Dorset and Council. Harrison said that

the last Library Board meeting had been cancelled and they seem unsure just how to proceed. Harrison added that the Board has yet to rescind their original motion regarding closure of libraries across the County. She also stressed the need for recommendations to come from the grass roots level. Harrison also commented that the County's budget will be seriously impacted by the new libraries in Minden and in Dysart which will be open 35-40 hours a week suggesting that a lot of work will be needed to determine how to maintain increased funding levels across the County. She also suggested that discussions would have to be held to determine how a local library board would work with the County Board, adding that with the community being responsible for facilities and the County providing the services it would be hard for a lower tier Board to have any clout.

McDonald reiterated the need for a Committee of Council to design the best approach for Algonquin Highlands and encouraged Council to move forward in this direction. She said people are asking why Minden and Dysart are getting more service and other municipalities are not.

Reeve Harrison thanked McDonald, saying her message had been heard loud and clear and the work of the Co-Operative was much appreciated. She asked Council to think long and hard about how they propose to handle the issue of libraries which will be on the April agenda for discussion and a decision.

Could a community based library board work for the municipality, or will the wheels keep spinning and the suggestions become just more pie in the sky? We'll keep you posted. ■

Trails Department Decisions

New Toys for the Boys

The Algonquin Highlands Trails Department is getting a couple of new toys. Trails Coordinator Mark Coleman presented the Council with quotations to lease a 4x4 long box ½ ton pickup with a towing package and to purchase a Utility Terrain Vehicle with a trailer, snow plow kit and 3,000 lb. winch.

The pickup will provide additional transportation to service the Poker Lakes and Council accepted a quotation from Curry Motors for a 36 month lease for \$409 per month. The UTV is to be shared by the Trails and Public Works Departments to service water trails, hiking trails, parks and community centre works and projects. According to Coleman, the equipment is due in part to the growth of the Trails Department operations, as well as the limited availability (and increasing difficulty) to borrow equipment from partners (MNR). The UTV's shared use will be split 6 months of the year between each department. Council accepted a quotation from HB Cycle and Outdoor Centre for the UTV in the amount of \$11,274.45 for a 2007 Kawasaki Mule 610 UTV with winch and snowplow kit installed. They also accepted a quote

from Trailer Mobile Recreation for \$2250 for a Mini Landscaper trailer.

Coleman also reviewed a 'Trails for Life' funding application for various hiking and water trails projects. Part of the application includes education and encouragement of physical activity in support of the Ontario Trails Strategy. If the application is successful the funding will assist in covering the cost of panels, posters and a guide booklet, a safe canoeing course, enhancing the 'Leave No Trace' display and assist in the development of a risk management plan. Council supported the funding application.

Councillor Carol Moffatt asked how long the Municipality would be required to support the Water Trails Program and when it was expected to become self sustaining. Reeve Harrison said that when the Municipality took on the program they expected it would take at least five years for it to be self sustaining, adding that it is in its third year. ■


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The Dominion Hotel Renovation

What's Really Happening



Questions have been raised recently about the status of the Dominion Hotel renovation project. Has a stop work order been issued? Is there a problem with the Historical Designation? Or is this the first development on a long list of heightened enforcement initiatives in Minden Hills?

Hills?

What is evident is that construction is not under way right now, even though recordings on the Hotel's answering machine indicate that it will be opening shortly. Unfortunately, the owner has been away and unavailable for comment. Discussions with Chief Building Officer Ken Jones indicate that "there is no real problem" with the development. Jones says Owner Sean Chamberlin has simply been asked to submit more documentation in accordance with his permit. Both Jones and Reeve Jim McMahon assured the County Voice that there were no problems with the Historical Designation. McMahon, however, did suggest that a stop work order has been issued until engineered drawings were submitted to the Municipality. McMahon says "this is just an oversight on his (Chamberlin's) part" and agreed that the Municipality has no real issue with the development.

Let's hope that's the case as it will be wonderful to see this historic building have the facelift it deserves and once again be a lovely addition to the heart of Minden Hills. ■

New Hours & Fees for Algonquin Highlands Landfills

Landfill sites in Algonquin Highlands are about to become a bit more accessible to the public. The municipality's Waste Management Committee recommended changing the hours at all of the landfill sites with hopes of achieving a number of goals. Council gave the proposed changes the nod at their meeting last week.

Operations Manager Brian Whetstone put the recommendations forward to Council, noting that the new hours should consolidate and simplify operations at all of the sites. First and foremost, the landfills will be open more hours and days. Hours of operation will be consistent for all sites with the exception of Pine Springs, reducing confusion for visitors. The new hours will reduce the amount of 'bear watching' hours, considered to be potentially dangerous for the public and the Committee's biggest concern. Whetstone says the hours will alleviate the current line-ups and illegal dumping found at opening time. He says staff members often encounter garbage being left at the gate early on Monday by cottagers leaving late on Sunday or early on Monday. People will be able to visit the landfills earlier on the weekends and attendants will be able to have two days off in a row every week. Early opening days will also be offered on Saturdays, Sundays

and Mondays for those in the tourism industry.

Hours of operation will be reduced by one hour during the winter months, but Whetstone is confident that overall operations will be more efficient while offering the same levels of service. All of the landfills will be closed on Tuesday and Wednesday with the exception of Pine Springs which will only be open Saturday, Sunday and Thursday. New signs will be posted at the dumpsites,

**"Changes are
being made to
eliminate dump
jumping!"**

handouts will be made available to residents and each of the Lake Associations will be advised of the change.

Reeve Eleanor Harrison commented that at one time in Stanhope the thinking was that if each dump site was open different hours, residents could go to a different site if one was closed. She anticipates there may be some comments about the change, but hopes that the positive impact will outweigh any negativity coming from those who may have difficulty with the change.

The Algonquin Highlands Waste Management Committee also reviewed a proposed schedule of fees being recommended by the

County's Waste Management Committee. Adopting this new schedule of fees is intended to provide consistency across the County. According to Whetstone, there were some questions raised at the committee level about definitions, hazardous materials and policing of rules, but they recommended adopting the fee schedule pending the final decision by the County Waste Management Committee and Council concurred. One change that will take place is a change in the definition of 'commercial waste'. Whetstone reported that the Committee was recommending the removal of any reference to commercial waste in their regulations. At the County level this refers to compacted waste, and the Algonquin Highlands Committee feel that commercial waste and household garbage are one and the same as long as it is recycled properly.

Whetstone also reported that the County Council accepts the fact that there will always be some anomalies in each Township, but he says "changes are being made in efforts to eliminate dump jumping."

Council approved all of the Committee's recommendations in principle. Changes in hours, tipping fees and definitions are all required to be adopted by by-law, which will be presented to Council at their next regular meeting. ■

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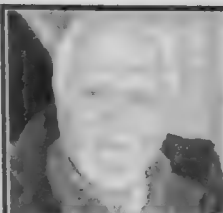
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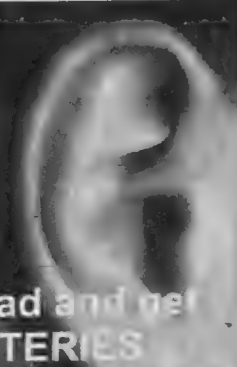
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Coby Islander Final

Old Rivals Never Die - They Just Get Wrinkles



Photos By:
Lyn Winans

The 30th annual Highland Cup Challenge (also known as the Coby Islander) was played to enthusiastic crowds last weekend in Minden and Haliburton. Some 51 teams played a total of 94 games displaying a very high level of skill, enthusiasm and competitiveness.

In the Recreational "A" Championship Division (the Blue Light Final) played in Minden on Sunday Weasal's Warriors from West Guilford defeated the Capitals, a Minden based team, 2 - 1. The game featured great passing and teamwork, with the Warriors' Bernie Nicholls scoring both his team's goals (no surprise there!). Jesse Stoughton scored the lone Capitals marker. The game was almost like a flashback for some of the spectators - many of the players were local and would have crossed over through high school or minor hockey here in the County years ago. And as the saying goes, "old rivalries never die - they just get wrinkles!" ■



Algonquin Highlands Approves 4.81% Tax Hike

It wasn't easy, that's for sure. After a lot of prep work by staff and Council, several days in mid February of rifling through the budget looking at every line item in detail, a final review and a lot of discussion back and forth last week, the Algonquin Highlands Council has given preliminary approval to a 4.81% increase in municipal taxes. And even with the increase, Council feels they have approved a lean machine to work with. Several Councillors argued that it could prove to be a bit too lean.

While there could be some adjustments before the by-law is passed formally adopting the budget, total 2008 estimates stand at \$7.4 million dollars with revenues of \$4.64 million leaving \$2.78 million to be collected through taxation. But the increase is not quite as bad as it seems. Budget figures are still needed from the County and for Education, but CAO Lorne Mitchell is estimating a Blended Rate increase of 3.38%, assuming that the County doesn't increase their budget more than 6%. Mitchell called the final product "an extremely ambitious budget."

Comments made in the budget overview suggested that finding the right balance between realistic taxation levels that reflect the cost of living and appropriate program and service delivery was a tremendously challenging process. It's always difficult when a Council has to sacrifice some of their goals in order to achieve others, and deciding just what their priorities should be. One thing that is different this year is a 'lease to own' policy that Council has adopted in order to decrease the impact when making large capital outlays for various assets like equipment and vehicles in a single year.

Some of the major programs and projects in the budget include construction of a new outdoor skating rink, capital bridge repairs, replacement of Buckslide Bridge, preparation and costing of an Airport Development Plan, completion of the Stanhope Firehall expansion project, renovations to the Municipal Office to improve accessibility and spatial requirements as well as relocating the Emergency Response Control Centre to the Municipal Office. The relocation of the Emergency Response Control Centre and the replacement of Buckslide Bridge are both dependant on successful funding applications. In addition MacBrien Road will undergo gravel reconstruction and hard surfacing projects will take place on Braeloch and Buckslide Roads.

Other budget highlights include a newly designed Township website, a new central server for the municipal computer system; continued improvements to both the Dorset Museum and Stanhope Museum, purchasing a new backhoe and acquiring a UTV for shared use between water/walking trails and the parks/recreation department. As well as the addition to the Firehall, a new fire mini-pumper, tanker, first response unit, fire extrication equipment for Oxtongue District and fire utility vehicle will be acquired for the Fire Department along with fire breathing systems and protective gear.

Council spent a considerable amount of time discussing and struggling with their philosophy for maintaining reserve funds and the handling of surplus funds. Legislation requires that reserves be established and maintained in each municipality to ensure that funding is in place should emergency repairs or replacements be required. Considerable discussion took place about both Stanhope and Dorset Museums and the level of funding available for their projects with Councillors Moffatt and Griffin arguing on behalf of the museums. Reserve funds will be depleted to some extent in this budget as funds are transferred to allow capital projects to proceed or acquisitions to be made.

During their deliberations Reeve Eleanor Harrison said she's confident that the Municipality is in a good reserve position and Council will be able to reinforce their reserves in 2009 when assessments are increased. Councillor Griffin voiced her concern that increased assessments could be enough of a jolt next year, making this budget the time to seriously consider any outstanding issues or to make contributions to reserves. Other concerns discussed included having sufficient breathing room for unanticipated expenditures, having an alternate plan of action should Council not be successful with the Buckslide Bridge project funding application, ensuring there are sufficient waste management reserves in place and whether funds should be made available for a development plan for the airport.

In the process of making their final decision, Council agreed that if funding didn't come in for the bridge project they could either phase the project over two years, possibly on a smaller scale, or make a new application for funding during the next round of submissions later in the year. A vote was taken on whether to proceed with the airport plan and passed, with Moffatt and Gardner voting against the project. The original budget presentation proposed a municipal tax hike of 3.81%, but after struggling with the decision, Council finally decided to add an additional 1% to help build waste management reserves, which raised the municipal tax increase to 4.81%. ■

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Tory Hill's About to Get a Boost

Liz Danielsen

Staff Reporter

A small group of folks, highly charged with lots of energy, are looking to put Tory Hill back on the map. Pat Currie approached the Highlands East Council with a plan this week that sounds like the perfect way to realize a dream to revitalize Tory Hill. Currie says that a working group of artists in the area have formed the Highlands East Cultural Association. The artists who represent a number of disciplines including glass blowing, ironwork and painting, want to start a Sunday Market and they're asking Council for the use of the Tory Hill parkette.

According to Currie, the group has plans to send out a call to local marketers of organic produce, soap, art and high end crafts of all sorts to take part in the Market for nine weeks this summer. Members of the Association want to do everything they can to support and encourage farmers with local produce in the Haliburton area and hope to see lots of folks, whether locals or seasonal visitors come out to enjoy that produce and everything else the Association can make available.

Currie says "we want to plant barrels and put up hanging baskets at the parkette." The group has contacted both MTO and MNR to look into routes and limitations related to highways and signage. She assured Council that they've done all of their homework to ensure there is no congestion or difficulties with traffic. According to Currie, they have a vision similar to the Kensington Market and their call to vendors includes some pretty stringent requirements. Currie

"We have
a dream of
revitalizing
Tory Hill"

also assured Council that the Association is planning a totally 'green' approach to the project and want to ensure quality care of the market, waste handling and recycling.

Currie spoke of the Association's plan to produce a brochure that will encourage people to visit studios in the area to help artists whose products may not suit the Market theme. She says "we're dedicated to helping others as well as the vendors at the market." Currie also says "we want to bring folks into the area, have them learn a bit about our history and give them a chance to see what the Highlands are all about." If the Market is successful they would like to see an annual festival take off that adds events like chili or

barbecue rib cook-offs, outdoor movies in the park for kids and have all kinds of old fashioned good fun.

The Association is a non profit organization. They're also working on their plans with Jim Blake of the Haliburton County Community Co-Op. They have insurance in place and while the members have all kicked in their own money to get things off the ground, they will be seeking some additional funding.

They hope that each Sunday the Market will draw enough people from the area to make a go of it. Currie spoke of Kinmount's summer Sunday event as well, and said the group hopes to see people travel to both markets each week, local restaurants get involved and in time put the little community back on the map.

Council was very enthusiastic about the idea and granted the Association the right to use the Tory Hill parkette for the Market. ■

Dorset Rink Proposal Under Scrutiny

The Dorset Ball Diamond Rehabilitation Committee has some pretty ambitious plans and they're willing to work hard to achieve them. Earlier this month the Algonquin Highlands Council discussed a request for input and support from the Committee, but according to Council, not much can be done until a bit more research is completed.

Correspondence received at Council's last meeting from Jim Jones, Chair of the Rehabilitation Committee, outlined plans for a court surface in the outdoor rink area, a walking track, playground structure and pavilion as well as reconfiguring the rink and rink shack to facilitate a cover. The same letter was also sent to the Lake of Bays Council for similar consideration.

Responding to Council's request for additional information, Jim Jones presented the Committee's vision in person at the Council meeting last Thursday morning. He offered several examples of the cost of covered rinks that ranged in price from \$135,000 to \$202,000 and were funded either through grants or a variety of cost sharing methods. Jones also spoke to the benefits of the Committee's proposal including an extended season, less snow removal requirements and a greater variety of opportunities for users.

But it looks like the Committee still has a lot of homework to do. Reeve Eleanor Harrison voiced her concern about a number of things, including whether usage of the facility warranted the cost of the project, the possibility of having to move the rink given proximity to property lines and just how much time a roof would add to the life of the rink itself and to each season. Harrison said that, as in most municipal projects, the project would require engineering to reduce liability. Harrison also commented that it seems apparent that both the Rehabilitation Committee and Council are in a quandary about how much should be spent prior

to deciding that the project or some of its components could proceed.

Councillor Carol Moffatt suggested the possibility of leaving space around the rink that would allow work to be done in the future, while proceeding logically piece by piece with the other components of the project as funds becomes available. Moffatt commented that the response by recreation members to the suggestion of a covered rink was about 50/50, but she was certain the public's response would be positive. She cautioned that resolving land issues should be the first priority as well as finding out whether Lake of Bays would accept their portion of ongoing maintenance costs should a larger facility be built.

According to Reeve Harrison Lake of Bays Council has policy that precludes them from spending money on buildings that aren't in their municipality. She suggested that joint ownership of the facilities might solve the problem.

Saving the day to some extent, Councillor Diane Griffin reported that the Tall Pines Snowmobile Club in Dorset are prepared to write a check for \$4,000 to assist in researching the stability of the rink. The money will also allow the group to proceed with more costing and feasibility work.

Councillor Moffatt suggested that as it is a multi-faceted project she would like to see a cost attached to each part of the project providing a target for individual fund raising groups.

Reeve Harrison advised Jones that given the project's infancy, Council could not commit to funding with so many unknowns. Jones agreed that his Committee would continue to research the project and would meet again with Council prior to either a public meeting or joint Council meeting with Lake of Bays. So, back to the drawing board the Committee goes. ■

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Portfolio Class exhibition at the Rails End Gallery & Arts Centre is titled "Speak Through My Eyes". The students feel passionate about the theme they have chosen and collectively they employ a variety of media to express their reactions through art.

This year's Portfolio class exhibition is generously supported by the Ontario Arts Council's Artist in Education program and Trillium Lakelands District School Board. Through this support, the Rails End brought nationally acclaimed contemporary artists Gary Blundell and Victoria Ward to the school. [Ward's exhibition titled "rockets and gallows" will be at the Gallery in May, 2008 and Blundell's exhibition, "bloom" was there last August.] Blundell and Ward worked intensively with the portfolio class students in preparation for this group exhibition. Students explored contemporary art practices, learned to craft artist statements, create promotional material, and created artworks informed by a conceptual theme. From start to finish the class has experienced the ins and outs of planning and designing an exhibition.

Participating artists: Jessica Austen, Danielle Chvedukas, Chris Hosken, Elizabeth Lopez, Alisha Merritt, Erin Nicholson, Kristin Nicholson, Chris O'Mara, Jessica Pottier, Jocelyn Regina, Bronwen Rolfe, Ian Sachs, Emily Sands, Ashleigh Schollig, Lesley Slavish, Bethany Snelgrove, Mhairi Treharne, Emily Turner

The exhibition opens with a reception and a walk-about led by the young artists on Saturday March 29th 2008, from 2 until 4 p.m. Rails End Gallery and Arts Centre is open Wednesday through Friday, 11 am through 5 pm and Saturdays from noon until 4pm.

The Rails End Gallery & Arts Centre is located at 23 York Street in Haliburton - contact 457-2330 for more information. ■

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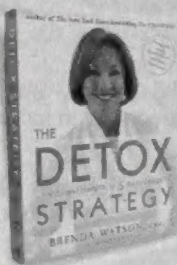
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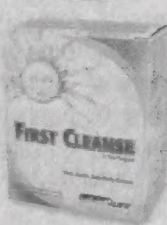
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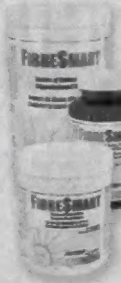
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- ☐ Do you brush your teeth daily?
- ☐ Do you have "silver" dental fillings?
- ☐ Have you ever had tooth extractions and/or root canal fillings?
- ☐ Do you use unfiltered tap water to brush your teeth, shower, make coffee or drink?
- ☐ Do you use commercial household cleaners, cosmetics or antiperspirants?
- ☐ Have you ever taken prescription medications or over-the-counter medications, including hormone replacement therapy or birth control?
- ☐ Do you have wall-to-wall carpet in your home or office?
- ☐ Do you eat commercial (non-organic) vegetables, fruits, or meat?
- ☐ Do you wear clothes that have been dry-cleaned?
- ☐ Do you wear synthetic materials (such as polyester)?
- ☐ Do you eat processed food or fast food?
- ☐ Have you ever smoked or been exposed to second-hand smoke?
- ☐ Do you eat in restaurants more than twice weekly?
- ☐ Do you use bug spray in your home or have a pest control service?
- ☐ Do you use weed killer on your lawn?
- ☐ Do you dye or bleach your hair?
- ☐ Do you use cologne or perfume?
- ☐ Are you overweight, underweight, or do you have cellulite deposits?
- ☐ Does your occupation expose you to toxins?
- ☐ Do you drink alcoholic beverages regularly?

- Instructions: Read each question, and then check the box if you answer 'yes'. Give yourself 1 point for every 'yes'**
- ☐ Do you eat fish more than twice a week?
 - ☐ Do you regularly swim in a pool or lake?
 - ☐ Do you live in a major metropolitan area?
 - ☐ Do you live near an airport?
 - ☐ Do you work in an environment using fluorescent lighting?
 - ☐ Do you drink non-organic coffee?
 - ☐ Do you feel tired, lethargic, or sluggish upon waking and even throughout the day?
 - ☐ Do you have difficulty concentrating or have slow or surreal thinking?
 - ☐ Do you feel depressed or have mood changes?
 - ☐ Do you get more than one or two colds per year?
 - ☐ Do you get postnasal drip, congestion, or a stuffy nose or sinuses upon waking or throughout the day?
 - ☐ Do you have bad breath, a coated tongue, or a bitter or metallic taste in your mouth?
 - ☐ Do you have strong body odor?
 - ☐ Do you have strong-smelling urine?
 - ☐ Do you have trouble sleeping or feel unrefreshed upon waking?
 - ☐ Are your nails weak, soft, or brittle?
 - ☐ Do you have dark circles under your eyes?
 - ☐ Do you often feel stressed or anxious?
 - ☐ Do you have allergies to various household products, dust, and molds?
 - ☐ Do you have eczema, dry skin, acne, or rashes?
 - ☐ Do you gain weight easily?
 - ☐ Do you have food cravings, especially carbohydrate-rich foods and/or sweets?
 - ☐ Do you have pain or discomfort on the right side of your stomach occasionally or after eating?
 - ☐ Does dietary fibre cause constipation?

DO YOU HAVE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS:

- ☐ Sensitivity to perfume or other chemical odors
- ☐ Persistent joint and/or muscle pain
- ☐ Chronic infections
- ☐ Depression
- ☐ Fatigue
- ☐ Headaches



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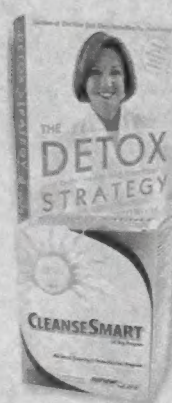
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Party in the Right Spirit

Liz Danielsen
Staff Reporter

That's the name of an upcoming event at the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School. The event is being presented by a group called the Haliburton Community Action Group on Alcohol and Drugs (CAG) and is aimed at all of the graduating students attending this year's prom.

Constable Mark McMaster, OPP Community Services Officer presented CAG's plan to the County Council this Wednesday. McMaster said he was elected to speak on behalf of the group that includes representatives from the HKPR District Health Unit, the Four Counties Addiction Services Team, Point in Time, the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team and the District School Board. McMaster says he has been associated with the group for about 5 years as part of his OPP responsibilities and they have had a great deal of success with a number of programs.

According to documentation from McMaster, Party in the Right Spirit is a full day of interactive workshops offered to all grade 12 students (about 180 kids) and staff advisors at the school. Presentations and interactive youth-focused workshops will be presented to create awareness about high risk situations that can and do occur around the pre and post prom ceremonies and parties. The training model for the event is geared to increasing awareness and changing behaviour with respect to sexual activity, alcohol and drugs.

McMaster says the most important component of the day will be presentations by a group called "Youth Speak". Representatives from Youth Speak will talk to the students about drug abuse from their own personal experience. According to McMaster there has been extremely positive feedback on this very effective and emotional part of the program. So successful in fact that CAG has made arrangements for them to speak with the Grades 7 and 8 students at all of the schools.

McMaster gave some statistics showing that 28% of Grade 7 students and 40%

of Grade 8 students have experimented with or use alcohol. These numbers keep increasing and reach 83% by the time students are in Grade 12. Almost 45% of Grade 12 students have experimented with or use marijuana. McMaster commented that it is CAG's hope to reach the younger students and give them some pointers that will help to guide them before reaching high school.

Getting down to the crunch, McMaster advised Council that the program costs \$8,000. CAG asked Council to consider "investing in the children in the community" through a commitment of \$1,000. Council were impressed with the presentation and agreed to contribute to the program. ■

Drinking and Driving, a Dangerous Mix

"A Point in Time Puppet Players" visit J.D. Hodgson Elementary School to educate Grade 4 students through play

Mark Arike
Staff Reporter

"How do you handle getting into a car with someone who has been drinking?" "Are you aware of the impact that drinking and driving can have?"

Grade 4 students at J.D. Hodgson Elementary School had to answer some of these questions and more when puppet performers from "A Point in Time" put on a show for them focusing on conscious decision-making. The group acted out two separate short plays.

Volunteer puppet performers from the Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents in Haliburton, incorporated the well-known Japanese Bunraku style of puppetry into their show. With Bunraku, puppeteers dress in black, making them invisible when standing against a black background.

Their first act was about the importance of giving a person all of your undivided attention when they are seeking advice from you, and the other, was all about the dangers of getting into a car with someone who has been drinking alcohol.

After the play about alcohol, Shelley King, Coordinator for Point in Time, asked the students if they had ever been placed in a situation that saw them in a car with a driver under the influence. Many of the students raised their hands to show that they infact had been through this scenario before.

"I did some research and found that about half of kids your age are put in a similar situation," said King.

Students then went into a question and answer period with King and the other performers.

"What is alcohol?" asked King. Kids gave various answers such as, "It's booze, wine, beer."

"Alcohol is actually a drug. A drug is anything that effects the way you think, feel or behave," she said. Students were also asked about how they would exactly handle being in a car with someone under the influence.

"I'd sit far back in my seat, near the back of the car," said one student.

"I'd make sure there was nothing blocking their view through the back window. If

there were any books or anything, I'd take them down so they couldn't fall and hit me," responded another child.

After all of that, King had a little special surprise in-store for the kids.

"I brought some goggles with me that I borrowed from an OPP officer. They are called fatal vision goggles. When you put them on, you'll get a sense of what it's like for someone who's been drinking alcohol."

"I learned that drinking and driving isn't safe at all," said student Tyler Baux. "It was a good puppet show."

"You shouldn't drink and drive. It's dangerous," said Sierra Teatro.

"The show was real good," said Cody Williams. "If someone is drunk, you shouldn't go near them and you should stay calm."

Grade 4 Teacher Sherry Schell said she was also entertained by the performers and felt that it was a great way of educating the students.

"I really enjoyed it. I found that it entertained all students and that they could relate to what was being taught."

To learn more about A Point in Time, visit www.pointintime.ca. ■



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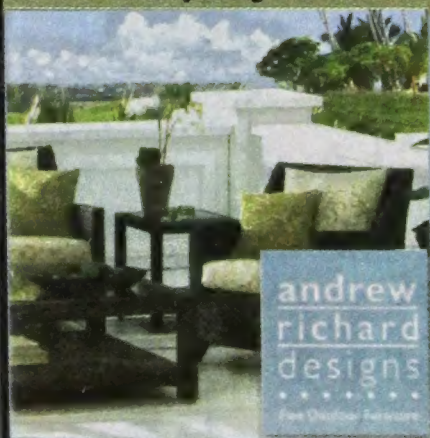
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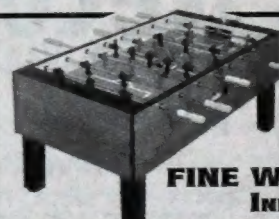


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Dear Abby

by Abigail Van Buren

Renewal Of Vows Can Earn Wows Even On Tight Budget

DEAR ABBY: I couldn't help but be touched by the letter from Steve W. in Phoenix (Jan. 12), the retired Vietnam vet who wanted to give his wife of 40 years the "full-blown wedding she deserved."

My husband and I are retired and recently celebrated our 30th with a "renewal of vows" ceremony. It doesn't have to break the bank.

We planned a year in advance and saved money just for that occasion. I wore a secondhand wedding gown. My daughter and I shopped for decorations (instead of flowers) at the dollar store. It was beautiful.

Since I am retired military, I was able to use the chapel and the club on base, which was quite reasonable. But there are all kinds of other relatively inexpensive options for a reception -- local fire hall, church basement or, in the summer, a public park.

My grown children are musicians, and they "gifted" us with their music at the chapel. We hired a DJ -- which didn't cost much -- and friends took photos and videos for us.

Abby, our first wedding was nice, but it was mostly for others. Our second wedding was for me and my husband -- and it was everything we hoped it would be. -- BOBBIE IN NORRISTOWN, PA.

DEAR BOBBIE: Congratulations on your 30th anniversary, and thank you for sharing your experience with me and my readers. Read on for several excellent comments and suggestions from others:

DEAR ABBY: You don't have to spend a lot of money for a renewal of vows. If you belong to a church, it will usually donate use of its social hall or sanctuary. The church surely will have some talented members who can help with decorations. Food shouldn't be a problem -- you can do punch/coffee/cake for less than \$50. The entire event could be handled for under \$300.

To Steve W.'s "children": Think of your parents. You don't know how long you'll have them. Chip in (yes, use some of YOUR money) and make this a memorable occasion for them. -- BECKI IN GARDEN GROVE, CALIF.

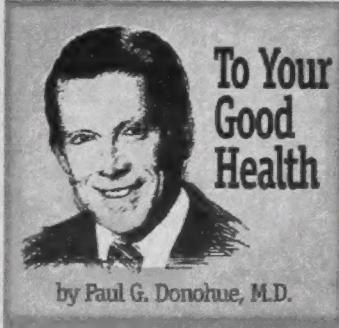
DEAR ABBY: We asked our new priest if he would give us a special blessing on our 45th. To our surprise, we were called up to the altar after Mass, and he renewed our vows in front of the entire congregation.

Since then, the priest has done this for other couples. Some dress up and wear corsages. Pews are reserved for family and friends. What a beautiful tradition he has started. The congregation is happy to be included in this wonderful event. There is no cost involved. Afterward couples can have a small reception in their homes. -- BOB AND KAREN IN EAST MOLINE, ILL.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have survived a lot in our marriage, and are each other's best friend and soul mate. When we decided to renew our vows, we found a good deal on a three-day trip to Las Vegas last April, and had the ceremony at an Elvis chapel there. Please tell Steve that if his wife liked Elvis, having an impersonator officiate the ceremony, then sing and escort your "bride" is an awesome way to do it. Our four kids still laugh and dance to our DVD copy almost a year later.

Airlines and hotels always have deals for going to Vegas, and since you are married already, no license or minister is necessary. Silly as it sounds, it's a great time your wife will never forget. -- LORIANN IN WASHINGTON STATE

DEAR ABBY: For their 50th anniversary, my siblings and I decided to give our parents the big wedding they never had. Their sacrifice, love and spiritual guidance have shown us how to live wonderful lives. We gave them the party we could afford. The happiness on their faces that day will warm our hearts forever. Dad still asks, "How much did it cost?" to which I kiddingly respond, "That's none of your business!" -- HAPPY IN TEXAS ■



To Your Good Health

by Paul G. Donohue, M.D.

Many Ways to Treat Varicose Veins

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: I am a 52-year-old lady with bad varicose veins in both my legs. How did I get them? My legs get

tired easily, and they hurt if I have to stand for any time. A friend told me about an injection in the veins that gets rid of them. Can you tell me what that is? My husband has them too, and he's also interested in getting rid of them. I didn't know men got them. -- L.T.

ANSWER: Varicose veins are dilated, gnarly leg veins that aren't limited to women. Men get them too, but women with varicose veins outnumber men by a factor of 2-to-1.

You got them like most people get them. There's a strong family influence in coming down with varicosities. Pregnancy, jobs where people must be on their feet for long times and obesity are other factors that generate such veins. I just learned that taller people have them more frequently than shorter folks.

The basic problem is faulty vein valves. Veins are equipped with valves that close shut as blood passes by to keep it from falling back down. If leg-vein valves aren't working, blood does fall back down, and it stagnates in the legs and dilates the veins, causing them to balloon.

You can do some things on your own to improve the situation. Take a couple of breaks during the day when you can lie down with your legs raised above heart level. Compression stockings keep blood flowing upward in leg veins. The best are ones that are specially fitted for your legs and that have more compression at ankle level than at thigh level.

Removal techniques are many. You ask about sclerotherapy. In that procedure, a solution that irritates the veins' inner lining is injected into them. The lining sticks to itself, and the vein collapses. It's not used for all veins. It doesn't work well for very large ones. Catheter ablation is another newer technique where a thin, flexible tube -- a catheter -- is threaded into the veins. The catheter has a probe that emits radio waves that heat the lining and cause the vein to shrivel. The menu for varicose-vein treatment is large; this is only a small sample of what can be done.

The booklet on varicose veins explains this condition in detail. Readers can obtain a copy by writing: Dr. Donohue -- No. 108W, Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Enclose a check or money order (no cash) for \$4.75 U.S./\$6 Canada with the recipient's printed name and address. Please allow four weeks for delivery.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: Please explain the meaning of "homonymous hemianopsia." I am a senior and a diabetic. Does it have anything to do with either? -- J.B.

ANSWER: Hemianopsia is a loss of half the visual field. For example, a person can see from the center to the right but not from the center to the left. Homonymous (hoe-MON-uh-mus) indicates that both eyes have the same defect.

Head trauma, brain tumors, strokes and a few other conditions cause such a vision loss. Diabetes and aging are not common causes. ■

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Diving In Head First at Sir Sams Spring Splash

Photos By:
Lyn Winans

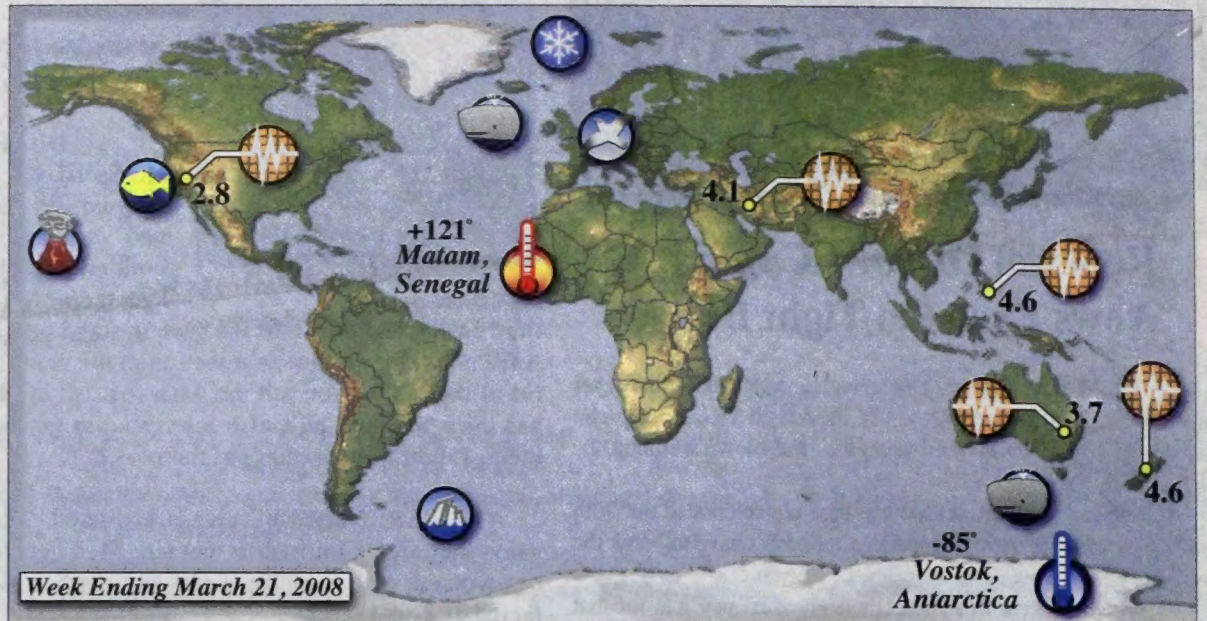


Sir Sam's Ski Area ended one of its most successful seasons last weekend with its annual Spring Splash celebration – and the more than 1000 skiers, snowboarders and fans had a terrific day in the sun, the snow, and the cold cold water. At the end of each season, weather permitting, the Sir Sam's staff floods the area at the bottom of the main hill to form a large arctic swimming pool, which the intrepid attempt to ski across! There were also Easter Egg hunts and other end-of-season celebrations. The only complaint, given this snow-filled winter, was: "why can't you stay open another couple of weeks?"

Sadly, that's not possible due to staff commitments. But the season will open next year on December 13th, and that's a promise!

Earthweek: A Diary of the Planet

By Steve Newman



Salmon Collapse



The largest collapse of Pacific salmon stocks on record may be due to unusual ocean conditions or the diversion of river flow for agriculture and the arid cities of Southern California, according to competing views from conservation groups and government agencies. The U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service says its fall 2007 survey of breeding-age Chinook salmon in the Sacramento River basin counted less than 6 percent of the long-term average number of the fish. And while fishermen and some environmental groups say that increased pumping of fresh water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta is to blame for the precipitous drop, federal and state fishery managers and biologists point to the highly unusual ocean conditions of 2005, which may have left the fingerling salmon with little or none of the rich nourishment provided by the normal upwelling currents near the shore. Whatever the cause, this year's salmon fishing season is likely to be canceled.

Splitting Ice



A huge iceberg that broke off the Antarctic Peninsula's Larsen Ice Shelf nearly three years ago has begun to disintegrate over the past three months in response to warmer ocean temperatures encountered while drifting northward. A huge fissure was spotted on satellite images running south to north through iceberg A53A on March 1. Just three days later, new satellite images revealed that the berg had split into two, with each piece measuring about 19 miles in length. Hundreds of tiny chunks of ice were later observed as A53A passed just south of the British overseas territory of South Georgia Island.

Arctic Ice Regrowth



NASA scientists say that harsh, frigid conditions over the Arctic Ocean this winter have created a polar ice cap that was larger during February than a year earlier. But Walter Meier of the National Snow and Ice Data Center at the University of Colorado in Boulder cautioned that the re-growth of seasonal ice does not necessarily mean a reversal in the warming trend that saw a record melt of Arctic ice last summer. "It is seasonal ice, thin, vulnerable ... which could melt very easily," Meier told reporters. The polar ice cap consists of seasonal ice that expands and shrinks between summers and winters, and perennial ice, which had persisted for hundreds or thousands of years until the recent record warmth of summer melted vast areas of it.

Volcanic Gas Alert



A new gas vent from Kilauea volcano threatens to send a cloud of toxic sulfur dioxide gas into the small community of Volcano, on the edge of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. The vent is contributing to the highest levels of the gas ever measured in the area, also raising the possibility that the entire park could have to be evacuated. Park rangers say trade winds are predicted to remain strong enough to blow the poisonous gas away from the park and Volcano.

Earthquakes



The strongest in a string of light earthquakes in Australia's central New South Wales state shook furniture and rattled windows, but caused no significant damage.

• Earth movements were also felt in central Iran, the southern Philippine island of Mindanao, central New Zealand and western Nevada.

Whaling Seasons



The BBC reports that an Icelandic official has confirmed that the country is likely to issue a quota to kill about 100 minke whales over the upcoming summer. After resuming commercial whaling in 2006, Iceland said it would issue additional quotas only if there was a demand for the meat. The country's minke whaling industry says it has sold all the meat from the last two years' catches, which shows there is an appetite for whale products.

• Greenpeace announced that its peaceful interference with Japan's whaling fleet in Antarctic waters over the past two months has resulted in the harpoon ships killing less than half of the 985 whales targeted.

Power Naps



German researchers say they have observed birds using the same technique as humans to compensate for sleep loss — power napping. Birds are the only animal group other than mammals to display both dreamless slow-wave sleep and rapid eye movement sleep, which is associated with dreaming in mammals. Sleep researchers from the Max Planck Institute for Ornithology prevented pigeons from taking their usual late afternoon naps, but allowed them to sleep normally overnight. They later observed that the birds recovered from that sleep deprivation by increasing the amount of slow waves generated during slow-wave sleep, but not the time they spent in it. In other words, the pigeons slept more deeply to make up for the loss of their "siesta" without having to spend more time sleeping.

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